



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

WIDENING WOES

A concerned Pacifican writes: "Pacifica will suffer months of unabated construction noise and dust along Highway 1 if we don't speak out now to stop the highway widening and get a more balanced transportation system. Businesses and residences along Highway 1 will have those familiar divider walls between them and the highway. The community turned out in large numbers at the last public meeting to say, 'NO FREEWAY THROUGH PACIFICA.' Say so again at the public meeting on Thursday, September 22 from 6:30 to 9 p.m., Pacifica Community Center, 540 Crespi Drive at Highway 1. The City of Pacifica is a cosponsor of this highway-widening proposal, so

let your City Council members know what you think. Email a written comment by October 7 to Yolanda Rivas, Caltrans, Attn: Thomas Rosevear, thomas_rosevear@dot.ca.gov. Email a letter to the editor of the Pacifica Tribune: elarsen@bayareanewsgroup.com."

LUCEBONES FOR GARDENS

"I am holding Super Saturdays at my office throughout September to benefit Pacifica Gardens. When people come in for chiropractic or massage, I donate 100 percent of the proceeds to Pacifica Gardens for its Gala Dinner on October 1." (Cynthia Luce, DC, 420 Old County Road, Rockaway Beach, lucebones@yahoo.com, 650-888-8829)

RACCOONS AND SKUNKS

The following is excerpted from a Sacramento Bee story that may have some relevance for Pacifica, which like Sacramento has creeks and open spaces: Skunks and raccoons have always lived in Sacramento neighborhoods, not to mention the river and creek corridors weaving through the city. Their populations may have increased due to a bountiful winter, many housing vacancies that create more nesting habitat, or some combination. Experts don't know if skunk and raccoon numbers have increased. The species are so common and abundant that nobody pays much attention to them until they cause trouble. "Raccoons readily live in close association with humans," said Dirk Van Vuren, a professor of wildlife biology at the University of California, Davis, and an expert on human-wildlife conflicts. "Raccoons can get accustomed to people, and then they become defensive." It may be that these animals have become dependent on human garbage, pet food and handouts – and are now acting

aggressively in response to any threat to these resources...get pets vaccinated against rabies as a precaution. In areas where raccoons are known to be present...people might want to avoid walking their pets after dark. The long-term solution is for city residents to secure their garbage, pick up debris and fallen fruit around their homes and businesses, and not intentionally feed wildlife. Homes and outbuildings should be inspected regularly to eliminate potential denning sites in attics, under decks and foundations... It is not widely known, but if a homeowner calls a pest control company to trap a raccoon, state law requires the trapped animal to be killed, said Jason Holley, a supervising wildlife biologist at the California Department of Fish and Game. Trappers and pest control companies are not allowed to relocate a nuisance animal, because this simply moves the problem and creates new competition for resident wildlife in the new area, Holley said. Also, relocating a nuisance animal does nothing to correct the problem that created

the nuisance. Another raccoon will likely move in to exploit the same abundant urban food source. "People need to take responsibility in properly storing their food and garbage and not providing attractants," Holley said. "Anything we can do to keep the wild critters wild, that's where it's at." (Matt Weiser, Sacramento Bee, September 8)

SWAMI SEZ

"A brave man may not live forever, but a cautious man lives not at all." (Richard Branson)

SITeseer

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- Click daily to help critters: theanimalrescuesite.com
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