



# RMCA NEWS

## JUNE 1, 2021

### RMCA appoints a Porcupine Creek Committee...

On April 1st the City Council approved the Porcupine Creek project on a 4 - 1 vote. Testimony regarding issues impacting Magnesia Falls Cove were ignored.



Previously, the RMCA had been in contact with the Porcupine Creek (PC) organization to request meetings to better understand the purpose of the latest changes to the estate. A letter from the PC executives indicated a preference to wait until the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was available. Residents were encouraged to write letters about the proposal. The majority of those letters voiced concern about using Dunes View to enter the project and allowing construction trucks and employees the use of Mirage Rd. The EIR report did not deal with the use of residential streets for the ingress and egress to the resort. The EIR indicated there was NO IMPACT regarding traffic congestion and did not take into account the elementary school receiving cars with parents and children.

In addition there was testimony criticizing the project on several grounds:

- \* Porcupine Creek was originally to be a PRIVATE resort - now it was going to be a commercial venture geared to the upper income levels (\$650 per day with a stay of 3-4 days).
- \* A program, called Sensei, which was installed at Ellison's resort on Lanai to be the center piece. In Lanii the hotel is a 4 Seasons Resort -Hawaii Wellness Retreat. Here in Magnesia Falls Cove it has been called a 6-star wellness resort.



Finally following the City Council meeting, a meeting was arranged to meet with Executives of Porcupine Creek Retreat on April 21st. An invitation was sent out to all Rancho Mirage Community Association (RMCA) members, residents and friends who were impacted by the development and its plans. The meeting provided the opportunity for residents to raise issues to the Sensei execs and the land use PC attorney, Jim Vaughan.

The outcome of the meeting: the RMCA would set up a committee to provide communication to and with Porcupine Creek representatives. Emails were sent to all participants at the meeting and a request to see who would like to serve on the committee was received by over 16 of the 30 participants at the meeting. Jay Castro was asked to serve as Chair of the Porcupine Creek Committee and an initial meeting was held on May 25, 2021. Jay Castro presented his survey of the group and 3 major concerns were voiced: **1. objection to using residential streets for ingress and egress to the resort, 2. increased traffic and pedestrian safety, 3. the future of the resort being sold as a hotel.**

**Immediately another issue was raised.** A letter was received by a number of the committee members from the Alcohol Control Board (ABC) regarding a liquor license request for Porcupine Creek Resort. Questions immediately surfaced regarding the impact such a license would have and especially concerning the Rancho Mirage Elementary School which is in close proximity. Since the visitors at the resort would be entering and leaving the resort during their stay and use the streets adjacent to the school and the immediate neighborhood the likelihood of traffic and accidents could occur.

**Download the attached form to this email to voice concerns to the ABC:**

**[www.abc.ca.gov](http://www.abc.ca.gov) and obtain Form ABC-510-A.**

**Alcohol Beverage Control**

**34160 Gateway Dr.**

**Palm Desert, CA 92211**

# THE WALLS GO UP...

Actually it is fences, but for everyone on Lower Magnesia Falls, White Sun area and the Magnesia Falls Cove, it is a gigantic wall: A wall that signifies the lack of respect for the needs and concerns of the residents of the Rancho Mirage Community Association. This is a City Council that when all was said (and there was a great deal said against In & Out's location on the corner of Hwy. 111 & Magnesia Falls Dr.) the Council voted unanimously (minus Hobart- and what was that about?) to build an In & Out with the concomitant noise, emission from cars waiting in line, late night hours and the eruption of a quiet, peaceful lifestyle residents who bought their homes in the area were promised.



For those of you who have followed the issue, it wasn't the building of an In & Out on the corner, as a good many people like burgers, it was the DRIVE-THROUGH that set the opposition in motion. The intersection at Magnesia Falls Drive and Hwy 111 is already jammed during evening drive time. Adding 3,000 daily additional cars to the mix will create a traffic jam.



Quoting Jim Elliott, Chair of Save Rancho Mirage (SRM):

"I'm convinced that the drive-thru will be an unmitigated traffic disaster. I intend to speak at the next council meeting and ask what the city plans to do when it opens.

Other In-N-Outs had crippling traffic jams for days upon opening. At one time, I believe INO said there would be no grand opening announcement to help avoid a problem.

I truly believe the city is opening itself up to lawsuits that will result from the traffic congestion and possibly injuries from accidents. I also believe it will be a deterrent for people wanting to patronize other businesses in the shopping center. The deafness and blindness of the council to the residents concerns continues to amaze me..."

When local residents saw the fences going up and read the usual rhetoric from the Desert Sun reporting on the event, everyone commented that they feel a loss of privacy and peaceful living. Yes, there is still a court

hearing regarding the City of Rancho Mirage's violation of the Brown Act meeting laws. And it is anticipated that Save Rancho Mirage (SRM) will be the winner, but after some fines and a slap on the wrist, more than likely the building will go ahead. We will have lost what we moved to this special area to enjoy – a quiet peaceful environment.

