

# EDITORIAL

95.4.1

## Time To Resolve Palm Terrace

To some resolve means to settle; to others it means determination. Either one is correct for resolve is both a verb and a noun. However, in researching the word, both meanings rely upon one another to fulfill its purpose. You can't settle something without having the determination to do so.

Resolve applies to chemistry, music, optics, mathematics, politics, but its overall emphasis is to progress from discord to harmony. In music it applies to a combination of [discordant] tones considered as unrelieved tension, requiring resolution.

And because the "re" in resolve means "again" and the "solve" means release, resolve can be considered a method in which one can go back to something that needs emancipation. Without such resolve, a nagging feeling that something is deficient plagues one until it is truly released and authenticated.

Resolve is a tricky thing to secure. One reason is that the minutia of life just gets in the way — you are able to resolve daily circumstances most of the time, but there are those crucial events which determine life's significance that sometimes get lost in the shuffle of life; they nag you periodically, but unless something triggers the necessity to activate resolve, they remain as unrelaxed tension. Another reason is that the necessary components just aren't understood because of blind differences of opinion, impeding true resolve. Both these reasons eventually catch up to you, but usually at a price. A more honorable reason is that all the puzzle pieces haven't been discovered to reach a true state of harmonious resolve; you take baby steps, partially settling things as you go, working towards complete resolve.

It's a delicate balance, this thing called resolve.

Now that we have had our lesson in linguistics, let me get to the point of this editorial...

The article on page one "Requiem For The Land — Can Palm Terrace Be Saved?" by Jude Kreisssman, is what prompted me to center this editorial around the word "resolve." It speaks to the ongoing determination of citizens to protect the land behind Palm Drive Hospital, adjacent to the Laguna. It "capture[s] some of the rage and passion of a decade of response to the grinding wheels of bureaucracy [land] development pressure..."

In the early 1980s an 80-unit development project was proposed for this location. It was denied — as I recall mainly because of its density, not to protect the Laguna. Several years went by without any activity to develop this land until July 1987. A project for 35 residential lots and some commercial was submitted to the City of Sebastopol. It was approved without the creation of a new EIR.

By the time this development proposal was submitted, the Laguna was beginning to surface as an important ecosystem and a citizens group, Sebastopol Tomorrow, had formed.

Those living close to the proposed development organized and Sebastopol Tomorrow assisted them in better understanding their rights. And on August 8, 1988, a citizen's lawsuit was filed by "Laguna Today and Tomorrow" requiring a new EIR. On October 23, 1988 the judge required the city to set aside their decision and prepare an EIR. Resolve had begun its process.

A new EIR was completed and by August 29, 1989 the applicant submitted an expanded project — the Palm Terrace parcel plus annexation of 32 adjacent acres, for a total of 47 single family lots, 2-4 multifamily units and one office lot.

However, by then, rumbles of protecting the Laguna had finally reached a pitch which heralded the recognition that the impact from the loss of its entire ecosystem, including its uplands, was a reason to control development. Laguna Is For Everyone was formed and gathered more than 1,200 signatures in opposition to the project. On June 11, 1991 it was denied. Resolve was being honored.

Regardless of the clear dictum that resolve in this case

meant no development, the developer kept pecking away with scaled down versions. Between the denial of the 47-unit project and late 1993, the City received another scaled down 19-unit project proposal. However, on March 15, 1994 it was also denied. Then on May 27, 1994, in retaliation, the developers filed a lawsuit against the city, impeding the momentum to attain resolve.

Between November 1, 1994 and August 1995, the City attempted to get the Open Space District to match funds in purchasing Palm Terrace as well as seeking funds from other sources. However, the lawsuit and its price tag loomed over their heads and on August 8, 1995 the city signed a settlement agreement.

In a nutshell, the settlement agreement cleverly separates the project into two projects tied into a fast track time schedule. One doesn't allow a public hearing, the other does. Both seek relief from affordable housing and growth management. If both aren't approved, the lawsuit will resume.

This brings us to the present.

By the time the 19 unit project was denied and the lawsuit filed, most citizens had gone back to their normal lives. They had done all they could do — they achieved resolve at several points, but it was now out of their hands. The City Council will be making a decision on September 19th, without a public hearing.

In the meantime "a remarkable" meeting took place. Native American Indians met with some of the citizens involved in the ongoing Palm Terrace saga. The last puzzle piece that had been missing from past attempts at resolving this issue had been found. Jude captures it perfectly: "With the 'introduction' of Indian homeland issues to those of us who fought to preserve this land because of environmental, social, aesthetic reasons, the importance of the place becomes even more compelling, more urgent, more focused. How can we, with what we know now, say no to these people wanting their homeland back?"

Palm Terrace is part of what was once the home of what the Spanish called the Gallinero, meaning people from Cloverdale to Sebastopol. They are known today as the southern Pomo Indians, some of which still live in Sonoma County. Known as the Battlecreek Village, it stretched roughly beyond the north end of Morris street by the Community Center and southward to approximately where the old Vacu Dry plant is. The Palm Terrace land is the last remaining undeveloped area of what was considered the heart of the Pomo's culture.

### Is It Too Late?

Is it too late? In honoring the true purpose of resolve, it shouldn't be. Too much has been uncovered and learned as this land has been up for grabs for the last 15 years. And the essence behind this decade and a half of citizen resolve to save this property from development has finally emerged: to honor the history of Native American Indians.

What it comes down to is this: The City can deny the project and pay court costs to defend themselves against the developers; the City can approve the project and citizens can file suit against the City; the developer can realize that their high-income homes next to a noisy heliport is really a boondoggle and they should reopen negotiations with the Open Space District and other sources to purchase the land for the Native American Indians.

This is one of those times where the honorable reason for resolve is essential. The Palm Terrace saga represents a crucial event that uncovered the true substance of why that land should be protected. All the ingredients to reach a true resolve are present if we maintain the determination to do so. If not, we will be responsible for allowing a discordant atmosphere to remain unresolved — if this land is developed, we all will pay a price that is not worthy of who we really are.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12			13	
14					15			16	
17				18				19	
			20		21				
22	23	24		25	26		27	28	29
31			32			33	34		30
35					36			37	
			38	39	40				
						41		42	
								45	
49			43	44					46
								50	
52								53	
									54
55									57

### ACROSS

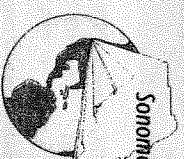
1. Venomous snakes
2. U.S. government agency
3. A paddle
4. A group of legislators
5. Silly, neat
6. Sports organization
7. Uncouth fellow
8. Agitate
9. Angle preceder
10. Wastewater treatment component
11. Writing instrument
12. River of Switzerland
13. Island (Fr.)
14. Media giant
15. Bone of the forearm
16. The settling of matter in liquid
17. The earth's natural satellite
18. Type of boat
19. Final
20. "A rose... Rose..."
21. Curse(s) (Sp.)
22. See No. 17 Across
23. Atmospheric phenomenon
24. A monster
25. A double curve
26. Excavate
27. True
28. A leather strap
29. Gore and Pacino
30. Sea eagle
31. Dissolve
32. Negative comb. form
33. Also
34. First left of a proper name (abbr.)
35. Underground passage
36. Retail facility
37. An Horror
38. Atmospheric disturbance
39. The Good Earth
40. Reproductive bodies
41. SW Asian nation
42. U.S. astronaut James
43. An English country
44. U.S. government agency

### DOWN

1. Israeli Statesman Eban
2. Fruit of the blackthorn
3. Needy
4. Hogment
5. A music ensemble
6. Capital of Lithuania
7. One-celled animals
8. Choices
9. Type of culture?
10. Necessity of life
11. Pop music star
12. Limited time period
13. L. (stalled)
14. A distinctive doctrine
15. Mr. Tolstoy
16. A former name of Tokyo
17. Social insect
18. Falsehood
19. Negative comb. form
20. Also
21. First left of a proper name (abbr.)
22. Underground passage
23. Retail facility
24. An Horror
25. Atmospheric disturbance
26. The Good Earth
27. Reproductive bodies
28. SW Asian nation
29. U.S. astronaut James
30. An English country
31. U.S. government agency

### ANSWERS TO JULY/AUGUST ECO PUZZLE

L	O	G	P	A	C	T	W	O	O	D
A	M	Y	I	N	R	E	A	N	N	A
P	E	R	E	C	O	S	Y	S	T	E
S	N	O	W		P	T	A	O	S	S
			A	I	M		S	M	U	
A	L	L	A	S	K	A	N	R	E	N
L	U	T	H	E	R	B	U	R	B	A
A	X	L	E		C	R	E	A	T	E
			S	A	S		N	A	N	
E	R	A		G	E	L		C	O	W
W	A	T	E	R	W	A	Y	S	E	N
E	R	O	S		E	K	E	S	Q	U
S	A	M	S		R	E	N	T	A	S



**E.I.R.**  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORTER

Established 1992

Publisher/Editor: Juliana Doms  
Graphic Designer: Christina Paddock  
Reporters: Citizens of Sonoma County  
Advertising Director: Michael Praelzer

Sonoma County E.I.R. is published 11 times a year

391 S. Main, Sebastopol  
P.O. Box 1834, Sebastopol, CA 95473  
(707) 893-8744  
Internet: juliana@monitor.net

The information printed in the E.I.R. is the responsibility of the authors. Articles may be copied freely provided credit is given to the Sonoma County E.I.R.

# Pica Graphics

design & production

logos  
newsletters  
brochures  
advertising  
catalogs  
booklets...  
823-1170

**JOE FORTUNA**  
ELECTRIC COMPANY

A FULL SERVICE ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

ALTERNATIVE  
ENERGY  
SYSTEMS

SOLAR • WIND • HYDRO

RELIABLE PROVEN "OFF THE GRID"  
ALTERNATIVE POWER SYSTEMS FOR  
HOME AND BUSINESS.

PHOTOVOLTAIC, WIND, HYDRO, DIESEL  
& GAS GENERATORS, BATTERIES, CHARGERS,  
INVERTERS AND PUMPS

DESIGN • INSTALLATION • SALES

FREE ESTIMATES—  
526-6599 OR 823-2162

SERVING SONOMA COUNTY SINCE 1975  
CONTRACTOR LICENSE #556966

