

District News

Spring/Summer 2026

Newsletter of
Pebble Beach
Community
Services District



Fire protection and
emergency medical services

Wastewater collection,
treatment and recycling

Recycled water storage
and distribution

Garbage collection,
disposal, and recycling

Supplemental law
enforcement

Stepped up fuel reduction in forest

Wildfire readiness is at an even higher standard than usual in Pebble Beach thanks to accelerated fuel reduction efforts, and the completion of fuel

breaks along key fire roads and evacuation routes. As climate change increases the frequency and severity of wildfires in California, the PBCSD Board of Directors is committed to safeguarding the wildland-urban interface of the Del Monte Forest. With support and input from neighborhood groups, the Board doubled the fuel reduction budget last fiscal year and will continue to prioritize efforts to protect people, property, and the forest.

With the increased funding, the District's robust fuel reduction program had over 60 people a day working to reduce flammable brush and dead vegetation during peak work periods in the forest, including three tree service contractors and multiple CAL FIRE hand crews, as well as hundreds of goats diligently munching their way through steep ravines and other inaccessible areas. A large portion of work went toward bringing fire roads below Huckleberry Hill up to Fire Defense Standards. At 400 acres, this area is one of the largest open spaces *(Cont. on page 2)*



Captain Greg Leonard surveys fuel reduction on Fire Road 2, pointing out preserved understory natives such as huckleberry and manzanita.



Fire Captain Nick Bautista is ready to greet residents at PBCSD's improved fire prevention office.

Office renovation complete

The dust has settled on PBCSD's renovation for the administration building, fire prevention office, and maintenance building. Upgrades include reconfigured space for better work flow, energy-efficient heating, lighting, and ventilation, and other much-needed improvements.

We thank everyone for their patience, and look forward to welcoming you to our new space!

Search and rescue team expands

After a year of intensive training and team building, we are happy to report that the PBCSD Fire Department is now an official member of the elite Monterey County Urban Search and Rescue team (USAR). This highly skilled team consists of members from the Monterey Fire Department, Monterey County Regional Fire District, North Monterey County Fire District—and now—our local CAL FIRE battalion.

With five new members from the Pebble Beach Fire Department and five more from our battalion partners, the Highlands and Cypress Fire Protection Districts, our local USAR now has *(Cont. on page 3)*



PBCSD fire personnel practice rescue maneuvers at Toro Park with the CAL FIRE Hollister helitack crew.



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Top plant pick:

TRY THIS FIRESAFE, DROUGHT-TOLERANT, NATIVE IN YOUR YARD!

Deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*) is a nitrogen-fixing subshrub that produces profuse yellow flowers loved by native bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. This adaptable plant grows up to 3 feet tall and wide, and thrives in sandy soils, coastal scrub, and woodland habitat. It likes sun and fast-draining soil, and helps combat erosion on slopes.

Deer browse this plant moderately, but it's hardy and grows back fast. Its soft, airy appearance is a beautiful addition to a naturalistic garden.

Deerweed's long-lasting flowers turn orange and red as they age.



Your input is needed!

Are e-bikes a problem in P.B.?

With the surging popularity of electric bikes, many municipalities are grappling with safety issues and sharply rising accident and injury rates, particularly among children and teenagers.

E-bikes are a sustainable and eco-friendly way to lower our carbon footprint, reduce traffic/parking congestion, and make biking and exercise easier for older adults and people with disabilities. Pebble Beach is a popular place to cycle, but there are many areas in the forest that have narrow, curvy roads with no shoulders or bike lanes.

Recently, a number of concerned residents have reported unsafe interactions with e-bikes. To assess the situation and help ensure safety for all, we'd like input from local drivers, pedestrians, and e-cyclists about your experiences on forest roadways. *Please visit PBCSD.org and click on the "E-bike Input" link to fill out a short questionnaire. You can also call (831) 373-1274, or send a letter to PBCSD at the address listed on the back page.*



Fuel reduction *(Cont. from front page)*

in Pebble Beach, and is also the origin of the 1987 Morse Fire. Our goal is to achieve Fire Defense Standards for all fire roads by 2027, and maintain them into the future. This includes removal of all flammable brush on both sides of fire roads 20 feet deep into the forest, and clearance to accommodate passage for fire trucks and equipment.

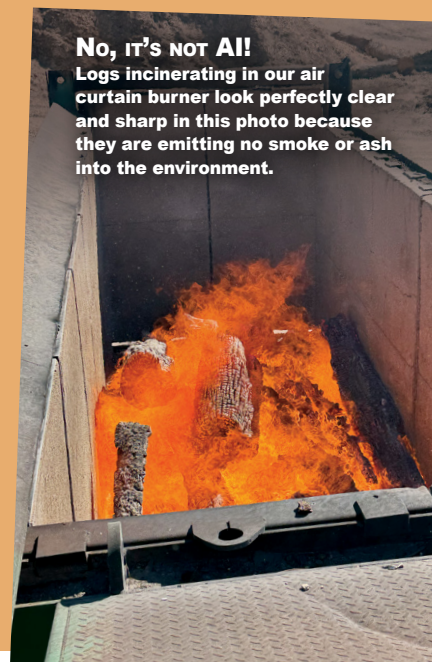
Burners streamline fuel reduction

Thanks to our partnerships with CAL FIRE and the Cypress and Carmel Highlands Fire Protection Districts, we are currently using two state-owned air curtain burners to dispose of large trees, provided at no cost to PBCSD. The curtain burners conserve fuel reduction dollars by processing large trees on-site, so there is no cost for truck transport or waste disposal fees.

Air curtain burners are considered a best practice for fuel reduction programs. A fan directs high velocity airflow across the top of the fire box to force smoke and particles back into the fire for reburning. Compared to traditional burning, curtain burners reduce emissions by 90 percent or more, and leave only 2 to 5 percent of the ash.

"Wildfire protection in Pebble Beach serves as a model for other communities, and property owners are a big part of that success," said Captain Leonard. By maintaining defensible space and hardening structures against fire, residents protect not only their own homes and family, but their neighbors and the entire community (see sidebar at left).

No, it's NOT AI!
Logs incinerating in our air curtain burner look perfectly clear and sharp in this photo because they are emitting no smoke or ash into the environment.



Property inspections underway

While the District works diligently to reduce wildfire risk (see cover story), we count on our most important partners—property owners—to help us protect our community: "a chain is no stronger than its weakest link."

Watch for your Fire Inspection Notice in the mail, and for our friendly defensible space inspectors who will be checking all properties in the forest. They can advise you on firesafe landscaping, and hardening your home against fire. If you are a new owner or renter, or if your phone or email addresses have changed, please visit PBCSD.org to update your information, or use the prepaid postcard included with your notice.

We thank everyone for their ongoing efforts to safeguard our community!



Seal Rock pump station rehab

If you frequent oceanside 17-Mile Drive, this summer you'll notice construction fencing south of Bird Rock, where the District is going to rehabilitate the largest of its eight wastewater pump stations. On the shoreline, the station looks like an unassuming collection of vents and hatches, but beneath the surface it houses a two-story pump room and wet well, six vertically mounted pumps, a generator vault, and a control room with remote monitoring system.

The station's last major upgrade was 37 years ago, so this new project is needed to improve overall operations and energy efficiency, reduce maintenance, and bring equipment up to current technological and safety standards. Improvements include six new pumps, a new surge tank and access platform, upgraded electrical equipment, and rehab of above-ground infrastructure. The pumps will be installed horizontally instead of vertically, so staff can service them more efficiently without the use of a crane or ladder.

"Seal Rock is our most critical station; it pumps two-thirds of Pebble Beach wastewater up Spyglass Hill Road, where gravity can convey it to the Carmel Area Wastewater District treatment plant." said Chris Simmons, PBCSD Principal Engineer.



SAFEGUARDING PEOPLE AND THE OCEAN District Principal Engineer Chris Simmons checks design plans at the Seal Rock pump station.



Power lines that run through the forest will be relocated to reduce outages from downed trees.

Undergrounding restarts in July

The design for Phase Four of the District's Undergrounding Overhead Utilities program is now complete, with construction of approximately four miles of undergrounding slated to begin in July. Trenching to install the conduit which will contain the AT&T, Comcast, and PG&E lines is planned to begin in the southern portion of the project at Del Ciervo and Crespi Roads, and is expected to take about 18 months. Once all conduit is in place, utilities will pull their lines through, with utility poles being removed once all construction is complete.

The project area begins at Lopez Road near the PBCSD offices and continues *(Cont. on back page)*

Search and rescue *(Cont. from front page)*

40 members—that's a 33 percent increase in on-call rescuers for Monterey County. USAR responds to complex emergencies such as rope rescues, structural collapses, trench and confined space incidents, and other high-risk operations requiring advanced skills and multi-agency coordination. The addition of CAL FIRE personnel has also strengthened the team's capabilities with water rescue expertise and equipment. Recent missions have included cliff rescues to save victims from rising tides, and overnight rescues of injured Big Sur hikers that required medical care and helicopter extraction.

"By supporting our efforts to bring CAL FIRE onto the team, these districts have ensured that residents and visitors who find themselves in peril, experiencing the worst day of their lives, will have access to advanced rescue," said Josh Silveira, CAL FIRE Battalion Chief and USAR member. "This collaboration strengthens our entire region's ability to respond to life-threatening emergencies, and underscores our shared commitment to support public safety and save lives."

See a leak or spill? Call us immediately!

With over 81 miles of sewer line in the forest, we count on the public to be our eyes and ears out in the community. We thank all the observant residents who have called over the years!

If you see water flowing out of a manhole cover, the sewer relief valve in your yard, or anywhere in or near the street, it is an emergency that needs immediate attention. Persistent, unexplained wet spots or puddles can also be a sign of broken pipelines.

Even if you're not sure, please call (831) 373-1274 right away. If calling after hours, please leave a message and we will call you back immediately!

Persistent wet spots in the street can be a sign of broken pipelines.





Pebble Beach Community Services District
 3101 Forest Lake Road
 Pebble Beach, CA 93953

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NICE PERK Your GreenWaste driver can move your carts to or from the curb at no additional charge.

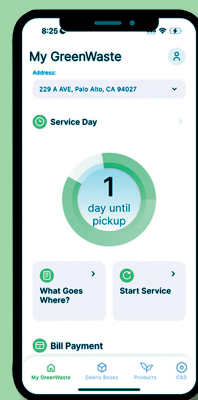
Three ways to optimize GreenWaste service

1. Did you know that Pebble Beach residents can receive free, one-way pick-up or return of their recycling, garbage, and yard waste carts? Your GreenWaste Recovery driver will provide this service to or from a backyard or sideyard within 100 feet of the curb. If you store carts over 100 feet from the curb, or if you

prefer two-way pick-up and return, you can add these services for a nominal extra charge billed directly to you.

2. Do you often run out of space in your recycling and/or organics cart? Consider adding a cart, or upsizing for an additional fee. Overfilled carts cause litter, attract wild scavengers, and cannot be lifted by automated trucks; open lids allow rain in, weighing down the bin. *To request service changes, please call GreenWaste Recovery at (831) 920-6707, or email peninsulacs@greenwaste.com.*

3. Get the new GreenWaste app at your mobile app store. View your collection schedule, report missed collections, check recycling guidelines, and much more. For troubleshooting, view Mobile App FAQ at greenwaste.com/online-services.



Undergrounding *(Cont. from page 3)*

towards Sunridge Road, where it wraps around Spruance Road down to Del Ciervo Road. We will also be relocating the at-risk overhead lines that run through thick forest between Atajo Way and Spruance Road, where storm-fallen trees contributed to widespread power outages in 2023. When Phase Four is complete, we will begin the design of Phase Five, which undergrounds the last two miles of main lines in the forest.

“With four miles of undergrounding, Phase Four is the largest construction undertaking yet during the 13 years we’ve been working on this program,” said Chris Simmons, PBCSD Principal Engineer. “When we complete the final Phase Five, all 12 miles of main lines in Pebble Beach will be undergrounded, and we expect to have more reliable power and communication services, as well as reduced fire risk from downed power lines.”



Save the date for these popular District events!

Open House Safety Day

Meet local firefighters, check out safety displays, entertain the kids, and enjoy the BBQ buffet
 Sat., June 13, 10 am-2 pm
 PBCSD parking lot, 3101 Forest Lake Rd.

Household Hazardous and E-waste Collection Event

Drive through our drop-off center to safely and responsibly dispose of your items
 Sat., Sept. 26, 9 am-2 pm
 PBCSD parking lot, 3101 Forest Lake Rd.

12th Annual Zombie Race

This fun and family-friendly 10K run, 5K crawl, and 2K stroll promotes emergency preparedness
 Sat., Oct. 24, 9 am-noon
 P.B. Corporation Yard, 4005 Sunridge Rd.



Pebble Beach Community Services District

PBCSD is a multi-purpose local government voted into existence by Del Monte Forest residents on July 1, 1982.

PBCSD administrative office
 (831) 373-1274
 3101 Forest Lake Road,
 Pebble Beach, CA 93953
PBCSD.org

Garbage collection and recycling
 GreenWaste Recovery: 920-6707

Free 24-hour sewer service: 373-1274
If water is overflowing into your home it is an emergency. Call us immediately, day or night.

Fire and medical emergencies
 Call 911

PBCSD Board of Directors

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