

Cypress Environmental and Land Use Planning

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Spring Newsletter May 2016

In this edition of the newsletter:

Cypress says goodbye to you in this final edition of the newsletter



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- **Cypress Environmental Closes to new Clients as Kim moves towards Retirement - What an Interesting Time it's Been!**

A healthy mix of private, public agency and non-profit organization clients has made my business a pleasurable and interesting vocation; *and* one where I believe I have made a positive impact on the environment. But now it's time to move to other things in life. I will be closing Cypress Environmental on May 12 (my birthday). After that time I will continue limited work with a few selected existing client projects as I move to other interests in life. ([More below](#))

- **Thank You to Past and Current Clients, Project Associates, Newsletter Readers and Other Contacts**

It's been a pleasure to interact with a variety of people throughout my planning career - a few a which I will continue with after my May 12 office closing. I have also enjoyed authoring this quarterly newsletter. I hope you have enjoyed reading it. Each edition included an article on a state-of-the-art planning technique, such

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of newsletter to "Click to
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as "regenerative design" or "complete (green) streets". I will keep my archived newsletters on my website for the time being for interested people to access. ([More below.](#))

Cypress Mission Statement:

Creating project solutions for you while enhancing our environment.



Cypress is certified as a sustainable practices business by the Monterey Bay Area Green Business Council.

Cypress has been a member of the Santa Cruz Construction Guild since 2010.



A few last words to you below

Life After Cypress



This newsletter is more personal than any of my other newsletters because it reflects on the closing of my land use planning career that spanned 36 years. After a 20-year career at the Santa Cruz County Planning Department, I opened Cypress Environmental and Land Use Planning in 2002. Now as I phase out of professional environmental impact assessment and land use planning, I will be cultivating a new "retirement" career teaching English-as-a-Second Language. Actually, I've already started. I received certification as an Adult School English and General Education instructor in 2012 and I've been teaching ESL at Santa Cruz Adult School two evenings/week for the past 3 years. A few of my spring 2015 graduates are pictured with me above. My students

have ranged in age from 18 to 60 years and have resided here in the USA from 6 months to 16 years! Most are Spanish speakers, but not all. So far it has been a rewarding experience helping students, most of whom work at day jobs, gain a new skill. My "retirement" plan is to teach ESL in other countries when my wife and I live overseas for 4--6 months each year. But before we begin our partial relocation, my wife, Claudia, and I are going to celebrate my professional transition by traveling to Peru for a month on June 5 to backpack in the Andes Mountains and otherwise explore this captivating nation of many landscapes and cultures.

Speaking of Peru, check out this video of a handmade [Q'eswachaka Bridge](#) which is rebuilt each year just the way it was done during the days of the ancient Inca Empire. From an engineering standpoint it's fascinating.

Thanks to All of You Who Made my Business Possible, Meaningful and Enjoyable

No one can have a successful business without clients or without a network of other professionals who can provide expertise in areas beyond your own. I have appreciated working with each and every one of you over the past several years. My past projects, clients and associates are too numerous to name or discuss here. I hope you know who you are. And to each of you I say "thank you!" as I move to a new phase of my life. My past and current clients are as varied as my projects, and that has made my work extremely interesting. Some of the current projects I will continue with are identified below.



The Cordoba Center, a mixed-use religious and cultural center proposed by non-profit South Valley Islamic Center, on a 16-acre property in southern Santa Clara County. The project includes a 8,938 sq. ft. mosque, 14,548 sq. ft. community building, a 4.5-acre cemetery, a caretakers dwelling, a fruit tree orchard and facilities

for a summer session youth camp. (See [Winter 2016 Newsletter](#).) The project will require preparation of an EIR and approval by the County of Santa Clara Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

Sunshine Gardens #2, a residential/commercial mixed use project on a 12-acre auto wrecking yard property zoned for industrial use in the City of Watsonville. The project will require a General Plan Amendment and Rezoning to change its "Industrial" designations to a "Planned Development" designation that allows the proposed mixture of housing types and limited small-scale commercial uses. Park space will also be included in the project. The project will also require an EIR and approval by the City Planning Commission and City Council.



Environmental Initial Study for a General Plan Amendment and Rezoning of the Bertelsen property in the City of San Jose. The Initial Study will assess the impacts of increasing the residential density on the urban infill parcel in a residential neighborhood. The project, proposed by a Bay Area resident, requires approval by the City Planning Commission and City Council.

Improving residential design guidelines for Seascape Beach Estates in Santa Cruz County. I will continue to represent neighbors who have formed together as the Seascape Beach Estates Community Coalition who are requesting new or revised policies to prevent more non-harmonious development in their beachfront neighborhood. New policies and regulations to address the issue requires approval by the County of Santa Cruz Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors and the California Coastal Commission.



Please visit [my website](#) to better understand some of my past projects.

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