



July 16, 2019

Dear Yosemite West Neighbor,

We've prepared the attached Questions & Answers document to provide some context about Yosemite Conservancy's purchase of and potential uses for 356 acres of forest and vacant land in Yosemite West. The document also addresses various issues and rumors that have been brought to our attention.

In addition to interest in our land, we recognize that there are a host of other issues currently in front of the Yosemite West community about water upgrades, fire suppression and NatureBridge's project, among others. We don't have all the answers you seek right now. However, we are committed to collaborating with the Yosemite West community and interested parties to inform our plans to ensure that what is done has enduring value, low impact and is environmentally friendly.

**To receive our communications by email, please provide your name, address and email to [YosemiteWest@yosemiteconservancy.org](mailto:YosemiteWest@yosemiteconservancy.org)**

If you're not familiar with Yosemite Conservancy, I'd also encourage you to go to [www.yosemiteconservancy.org](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org) to find out more about our work. We look forward to listening and learning from you to help inform our future plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Jerry Edelbrock". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jerry Edelbrock  
Vice President

*Providing For Yosemite's Future*



## Yosemite West Land Uses Q&A July 2019

Yosemite Conservancy purchased 356 acres of forest and vacant land in Yosemite West late last year. Thirty-seven acres of that total near the community mail boxes is zoned for residential use. We also recently purchased two quarter-acre lots adjacent to the residential parcels to increase flexibility of use for a variety of ideas that could involve emergency access, potential community open space or hiking trails. This initial Q&A addresses various issues that have been brought to our attention.

### **What is the status of Yosemite Conservancy's plans?**

We are committed to collaborating with the Yosemite West community and interested parties to inform our plans to ensure that what is done has enduring value, low impact and is environmentally friendly.

- **Preserving 320+ acres.** No development will occur on more than 320 acres of the 356 purchased. We intend to retain ownership of the 320-acre forest parcel and the other parcels purchased.
- **Exploring ideas for solutions to the local housing crisis for Conservancy and Park Service staff.**
  - We are exploring building employee residences on parts of the 37-acres zoned for residential.
  - The employees housed at this site would be both NPS and Yosemite Conservancy staff. Our staff provide a range of services to visitors and help the park in a variety of ways. They are the rangers, visitor center employees, hiking guides, theater performers, art instructors, and volunteers who help enrich the visitor experience every day in Yosemite.
  - We communicated this idea with County officials and staff, which is why the Conservancy is included in discussions about water system upgrades (see below) as part of a holistic approach for the area.
  - We hired a planning consultant, Darin Dinsmore & Associates, to advise us on ideas for the residential parcel.
- **Next step: Seek input.** We will seek input from the community and interested parties on diverse issues related to the property to determine a path forward.

### **What will NOT occur on parcels zoned for residential uses?**

- NO theatres, conference facilities, high rise housing, concession housing or a transportation hub, to list a few of the rumors we've heard. We'll be seeking input about interest in community amenities.

### **Why does Yosemite Conservancy support upgrades to current water systems and capacity?**

- Upgrades benefit all of Yosemite West by providing an areawide strategy for fire suppression improvements with an additional well and fire hydrants throughout Conservancy parcels, and possibly more water storage capacity and pipeline upgrades.
- Provides flexibility to consider residences for employees on the 37-acres zoned for residential.
- Addresses specific water needs for NatureBridge's new facility, an organization we've supported for many years.
- The State requires analysis and possible annexation to nearby certified public water systems for new development before creating a new public water supply system.

### **Who is Yosemite Conservancy?**

For 95 years, we've provided grants to the park to restore trails and habitat, protect wildlife, provide educational programs, and more. Our donors have funded more than 640 projects like the restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, protecting vulnerable wildlife like peregrine falcons, frogs and bighorn sheep, and the Junior Rangers program. Being good stewards of our natural lands is part of our organizational values — and the major reason why we were chosen over other buyers for land in Yosemite West. See more at [www.YosemiteConservancy.org](http://www.YosemiteConservancy.org).