

May 30, 2011

SWARM
PO Box 869
Willits, CA 95490

Dear SWARM Member;

Due to recent exposure of Board and other community members to the threat of litigation, your SWARM Board has voted to undertake some changes in the way the road association functions.

First, we will be moving to contract the majority of the road maintenance work to an outside contractor. This will provide consistent maintenance across all 3 gates, as well as ensure that all road work conforms with the latest state and local regulations. Based on our evaluation of other local road associations and the work they have contracted, we believe that we (the community) will get the same value for the dollars spent. Each of us will still have the obligation, along our property frontage, to keep the ditches and culverts open during the winter and the growth trimmed back along the road frontage during the summer. What will change is that elected Board members will no longer be out placing aggregate or culverts, cleaning out ditches or repairing potholes.

Secondly, we will be turning over account collections to an outside agency. This agency is used across the state and will take the care we have tried show to work out arrangements for payments if you are behind. As they are a subsidiary of a large law firm, we feel that they will follow the state laws regarding proper noticing, etc. Note that the collection agency does not get involved until a debt exceeds \$1800 per California law so we ask that if you are behind, that you note this threshold. The SWARM Board will still be involved with the accounting of payments, the interaction with the contracted accountant and the preparation of bill mailings and Annual Reports.

Thank you for your support, and we welcome your comments.

The SWARM Board of Directors
www.sherwoodgates.org