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## Mail sorting issues resolved and address changes for Saranap clarified

By John T. Miller

After two community meetings, homeowners are overwhelmingly in favor of changing 465 Saranap area parcels from unincorporated Walnut Creek to unincorporated Lafayette in the County Assessor's database. All of the affected parcels are within the Lafayette School District boundary and the Lafayette Sphere of Interest.

The second meeting took place Oct. 5, after the United States Postal Service had denied a request and then denied the appeal for a Zip Code Boundary Change of the parcels. The USPS has approved a Preferred Last Line for the parcels, so the homeowners change how their mail is addressed as either Walnut Creek or Lafayette.

The Postal Service change was originally proposed by a group of Saranap citizens and was put into effect in January. The change created some mishaps with delivery for several months, however the Postal Service has adjusted their geofencing software to correct the issues.

The Oct. 5 meeting was hosted by County Supervisor Candace Andersen and Congressman Mark DeSaulnier. Cheri Valdivia, manager of customer relations for the USPS Sacramento District, was in attendance to outline the Preferred Last Line process and explained how the problems with mail delivery happened after the initial change, and how they have since been fixed.

An email from Andersen's Chief of Staff Gayle Israel noted that after the meeting, Andersen decided that the community shows enough continuous support for the County Assessor's parcel number (APN) city name change. She plans to bring the item forward for a full Board of Supervisors discussion, most likely on Nov. 9. A mailed notice about the discussion will go out to the affected parcels soon. There will be public comment on the item to all residents with an interest in the change to make their feelings known. The supervisors will then vote on whether to direct the assessor to make the change to the affected parcels.

A change to unincorporated Lafayette will be in name only for the property APN. It will not move the parcels into incorporated Lafayette and the zip code will stay the same. Sorting the mail at the Walnut Creek Post Office, and the affected parcels, will continue to be recognized by the USPS as either Walnut Creek or Lafayette - it will be up to each resident to choose their Preferred Last Line.

Reach the reporter at: [john@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:john@lamorindaweekly.com)

[back](#)

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