

GROVE HILL TRAIL STILL CLOUDY

The status of an undeveloped pedestrian easement on Grove Hill in San Rafael remains unclear after a meeting of concerned parties chaired by the City Manager Ken Nordhoff. The easement is mentioned in the Sun Valley School Traffic Plan as a possible safe route to school for children living in the West End neighborhood. In addition, the easement could provide an emergency route between the neighborhoods in the event of a disaster. The easement runs from 5th Avenue through Grove Hill Private Open Space to Tamal Vista Drive at the top of the ridge between the Sun Valley and West End neighborhoods.

Attending the meeting, April 5, 2010, were: Public Works Director Parviz Mokhtari, Assistant Public Works Director Nader Mansourian, Victor Berliant and Gordon Manashel from the Grove Hill Homeowners' Association, Sharlene Moss and Dave Borton from the West End Neighborhood Association, George Mills from the Sun Valley Neighborhood Association, Principal Julie Harris from Sun Valley School, and City Attorney Rob Epstein.

Public Works Director Mokhtari

- Explained the City Council had accepted Lot C that is a 20-foot wide pedestrian easement, which runs from 5th Avenue to Tamal Vista Drive.
- Stated there was not a survey with bearings or distances for the easement and estimated the necessary survey would cost from \$20,000 to \$30,000.
- Commented that the top part of the easement was steep and hazardous.
- Argued that any improvements to the trail would have to meet ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Standards.

After the meeting George Mills found the Map of Grove Hill, filed with the County Recorder in February 1984, with marked bearings and distances. Mills contacted Mokhtari to see if the available bearings and distances would reduce the survey costs, and Mokhtari

held to his original estimate for the survey.

Neighborhood representatives will seek alternatives to a costly trail development. David Borton and George Mills will communicate with Tamal Vista Drive residents and the Rafael Racquet Club manager to explore the possibility of a path connecting the end of Tamal Vista Drive to the sidewalk on Racquet Club Drive. If private property owners wished, a path to the sidewalk could be opened and posted as a revocable right of way under Civil Code 813.