July 3, 2019

Hello one and all \sim

It has been a long while since we've sent a newsletter to all 194 of you who support the work of this campaign " to reduce and eventually eliminate the problems experienced by people, pets and wildlife which are caused by fireworks in all Santa Cruz County neighborhoods."

We've not be silent though, these past many months. Our website is shared constantly throughout the year and we keep our Facebook page updated. We recently wrote to law enforcement of the County and cities of Santa Cruz and Capitola, all on your behalf. We continue to stay engaged with the Board of Supervisors also.

While there have been increasing explosions as we near tomorrow's war zone, we have noticed that in the past two years that the month of June was not as bad as before we started this campaign in 2014 and formalized it as FFF on July 6, 2015.

Part of that is no doubt due to the early 2018 bust of a major illegal fireworks ring by the state of California. But we suspect that part is also due to the slow but steady growing opposition to the harm of fireworks to people, pets and especially to wildlife which has no say in the matter. The County and some of its incorporated cities have done extensive public media awareness this year. Did everyone see the Sentinel front page article yesterday?! They are using Facebook, Twitter and Instagram also, since so many people get their news from the cell phones these days. There have been at least 5 or 6 Fireworks threads on Nextdoor in the past three weeks.

As usual, be prepared to document anything you are able tomorrow.

Meanwhile, each year we renew our commitment to tackle another road block to peace and quiet this time of year. Watsonville is the focus but we have also heard from many that they are tired of the annual Monte Foundation fireworks permitted show, which pollutes the air for Capitola residents and scares pets and wildlife. We want to broach this subject with the Capitola City Council. We'll keep you informed in that regard.

Enjoy tomorrow, celebrating everything that is meaningful about Independence Day for you and yours -- all without ever engaging in fireworks!

All the best, Jean Brocklebank on behalf of <u>Freedom From Fireworks</u>