

11-10-11

Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park

Lighthouse Restoration Campaign – Phase One

Today was the start off meeting for the Pigeon Point Lighthouse Restoration project Phase one – Removal and restoration of the First Order Fresnel Lens. Folks congregated on site in the Fog Signal Building at 10:30am to review the plans and schedule and work on last minute details.



At the table were folks representing: California State Parks Foundation, California State Parks, Hostels International, Architectural Resources Group (ARG - the engineers) and International Chimney (IC - the construction group).

With good communication beforehand between all parties there were no surprises and the team was ready to move forward. The project

will take three weeks and includes; removal of the lens for the tower, restoration of the lens and then display of the lens in the Fog Signal Building.



Steve Syhoc (pictured left wearing the hard hat), the Site Superintendent from IC, has worked on 23 lighthouses over the past 15 years; this includes some of the original evaluation work done at Pigeon Point for this project. Here he is pictured with Kitty Vieth and Steve Farneth from ARG reviewing the architectural drawings



With the OK from the engineers - State Parks handed over the keys and Steve was ready to do his initial physical survey of the project.



Even with all of his experience, Steve stood amazed at the 24 bulls-eye lens of the Pigeon Point Fresnel Lens - "Much more than most". Here Steve sizes up the individual lens panels, which will be removed, packaged and then hoisted directly down to the Fog Signal Building.



The first steps will be to remove these windows and then string a wire from the tower down to the Fog Signal Building (pictured). Once the wire and hoist are secured then they will be ready to bring down the secured lens panels. This Steve and his crew are doing this Jim Dunlap (The Lampist) and his crew will be carefully taking the panels apart from one another and packaging them for transport.



If all goes well and the weather cooperates this part of the project should happen within the next few days. With this news, the State Park and Hostel International workers take right to action - clearing out the Fog Signal Building where Steve and Jim, with their crews, will spend the next three weeks restoring the lens and setting up the display.