

OJAI VALLEY MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY
September 17th, 2012

Chair Tom Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:05. Members present were: Todd Wilson, Carin Kally, Terry Wright, and Catherine Lee. Jerry Kaplan's absence was excused.

The summary of the July 16th meeting was approved unanimously on a motion by Carin Kally, seconded by Terry Wright.

Laurence Nicklin of the Ojai Planning Commission said recent major projects have included a 24-unit affordable housing project proposed by the Ojai Valley Inn, consideration of holding an art & crafts fair on Saturdays, the Seafresh Market design, expansion of the Tennis Academy, update of the Landscape Ordinance, and that soon the Housing Element will be coming back.

The first item of business was consideration of a Conditional Use Permit for a cell antenna array on Black Mountain consisting of several "popsicle stick" type antennae. Carin Kally suggested that MAC members disclose any ex parte communications, and that an agenda item for disclosures be added to future meeting agendas. No MAC members disclosed ex parte communications, but Todd Wilson noted that the MAC had previously reviewed other Black Mountain antenna projects including the existing Verizon monopole.

Steve Offerman noted that this Verizon project will enable Verizon to maintain cell service after removal of the tall monopole antenna, as had been recommended by the MAC, and that the "popsicle stick" design was consistent with MAC approvals for other cell carriers' antennas, and would keep the antennae below the ridgeline as viewed from the highway corridor.

Verizon representative Yumi Kim and Planning Division representative Brian Baca discussed the project design and that it would be constructed within an already-cleared area. Julie Tumamait said that Black Mountain has been listed on the State register of sacred sites as a place sacred to the native Chumash. Brian Baca requested that Ms. Tumamait provide data on the resource value of Black Mountain to the Planning Division. Ms. Tumamait questioned whether the environmental document addressed the sacredness of Black Mountain, and Mr. Baca said that so far it did not, but that public comments would be accepted. Mr. Baca discussed the mitigation measures to survey for wood rat nests and relocate any that are found. Ms. Tumamait said she supported protection of native species, and recognized that this antenna would protect the ridgeline.

Terry Wright said that the net result of the project and removal of the monopole would be a visual improvement, and that if rats are found they will be relocated. Julie Tumamait said that construction should be monitored for Native American artifacts. Brian Baca said that there is a standard "stop work" condition if artifacts are encountered, but that monitoring isn't required unless there is evidence that the particular site may contain significant resources, and that any information about the site would be welcomed by the Planning Division. Mr. Baca said that site had been previously cleared, and that construction was limited to a cable trench and two potholes. George ___ said that previously disturbed sites may still contain artifacts. Tom Kennedy encouraged George and Julie to comment on the MND. Carin Kally noted that the project improves on the appearance of Black Mountain and is on an already-cleared site. Todd Wilson made a motion to recommend approval of the project as proposed. The motion was seconded by Catherine Lee and approved by unanimously.

The next item of business was selection of a MAC member to replace Jerry Kaplan as MAC Liaison to the Ojai Planning Commission. Catherine Lee volunteered for the post until 2013. Her appointment was approved by acclamation.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30.