

Draft July 16th, 2018 Ojai Valley MAC Meeting Summary

Steve Offerman of Supervisor Steve Bennett's Office called the roll. MAC members Terry Wright, Grace Malloy, Jill Borgeson, and Chris Cohen were present.

Under public comment, Steve Offerman noted the County adoption of a Temporary Rental Unit Ordinance and an Oak View Oversized Vehicle Ordinance, and an upcoming meeting regarding Highway 33.

The summary of the April 23 meeting was approved unanimously on a motion by Jill Borgeson, seconded by Grace Malloy.

The first item of business was a presentation from the County Transportation Department on a proposed bike lane on Rice Road between Baldwin and South Lomita. Anitha Balan said the project is a high priority in the County bike plan and would connect with other Safe Routes to Schools projects in the Meiners Oaks area and support bicycle and pedestrian access between residential areas and schools and shopping. Brian Akins asked if right-of-way acquisition is needed: No, the project will be built in existing County ROW. Brian asked about future plans, and Anitha said that there is a Safe Routes to School study underway that will identify possible projects. Chris Cohen said he would be interested in having a presentation to the MAC on other planned bicycle and pedestrian projects. The need to keep bike lanes free of debris was mentioned. Chris Cohen and Grace Malloy expressed support for extending the bike lane north of Lomita. Terry Wright suggested that consideration be given to a separated bike trail on one side rather than bike lanes on both sides of Rice. Grace asked if the project would eliminate any on-street parking, and Anitha said that that is possible. Chris Cohen made a motion to support the project. The motion was seconded by Jill Borgeson and approved unanimously.

Under business items, Ruchita Kadakia of the County Planning Division presented the draft Ojai Valley Dark Sky Ordinance. She noted that the requirements to replace or retrofit existing lighting has been eliminated for "essential lighting" and the grace period for non-essential lighting and for light trespass (beyond the property line) increased to one year, and, that provision for obtaining an exception is included. Streetlights were called into question, and Steve Offerman said the County is actively seeking to replace all streetlights with shielded, warm color LED streetlights but that the process must go through both Edison and the CPUC and is taking a long time. Grace Malloy requested periodic updates on the streetlight replacement effort. Terry Wright asked why Planning didn't propose regulating temporary event lighting; Because of temporary nature and difficulty finding suitable lights. Chris Cohen asked why Planning didn't propose addressing existing lights; staff said they would be upgraded when replaced. Grace Malloy said that light fixtures can last 30 years or more, that few people pull permits for light fixture replacement and therefore would not face the new regulations, and that the ordinance should be enforceable which means should apply to existing lighting with an appropriate amortization period. Otherwise, it will not be possible to tell when a light was installed and therefore whether it is in compliance or not.

Brian Akins said that the City of Ojai has concluded that adoption of their Dark Sky Ordinance led to compliance without an active enforcement program and the ordinance applies to existing lights. Jeff Conklin asked what science there is on light color. John Brooks said the ordinance terms should

apply to streetlights. Jeffrey Starkweather said that some businesses on El Roblar have excessively bright lights that are on all night long, and that the ordinance should apply to existing commercial lighting. Dee Reed said that commercial development and schools are the major night light sources and their existing lighting should be brought into compliance. Deborah Pendry said she supports the ordinance, it's a good start, and there should be public education.

Sean Paroski said that he supports not requiring porch light replacement, that security lighting is needed, that motion sensors are unreliable, questioned how light trespass would be enforced (Planning has a light meter), and recommends that the exemption for temporary agricultural lighting be for "usual and customary" ag lighting. Judy Moline supported exempting temporary events and supported the ordinance.

Chris Cohen is concerned that leniency will render the ordinance ineffective and therefore existing lighting needs to be addressed. Shielding is not overly burdensome, and there should be a defined time period in which existing lighting is brought into compliance. Grace agreed with amortizing out noncompliant existing lights. Terry Wright said the cost of lights is not high, and the amortization period should be short. Jill noted that turning lights off at 10PM costs nothing. Terry noted a lighting curfew involves evening enforcement. Grace asked if the amortization period would apply to private schools; Yes. Jill said she supports addressing gas station lighting. Chris said that even without active enforcement, progress would be made, and he is torn regarding existing lighting.

Jill Borgeson made a motion to recommend adoption of the proposed ordinance and noted it is an expression of community will. The motion was seconded by Chris, who also asked to amend the motion to address existing commercial lighting with a 3-year amortization period. The amended motion was: To recommend adoption of the ordinance revised to apply the requirements for new lighting to existing lighting in Commercial and Industrial zones with a 3-year amortization period. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.