



OJAI VALLEY MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

Monday, December 20, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Oak View Community Center
18 Valley Road, Oak View
Kunkle Room

Chair: Chris Cohen, Vice Chair: Joseph Westbury
Council Members: Barbara Kennedy, Grace Malloy, Terry Wright

REGARDING PUBLIC COMMENTS PRIOR TO THE MEETING:

IF YOU WISH TO MAKE EITHER A GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT OR COMMENT ON A SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEM BEING HEARD, YOU CAN SUBMIT YOUR COMMENT VIA EMAIL BY 4:00 PM THE DAY OF THE MEETING TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS: OVMAC@VENTURA.ORG OR CALL (805) 654-2703. PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN YOUR EMAIL: (A) MEETING DATE, (B) AGENDA ITEM NUMBER, (C) SUBJECT OR TITLE OF THE ITEM, (D) YOUR FULL NAME. DURING PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA ITEM SPECIFIED IN YOUR EMAIL, YOUR COMMENT WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD.

- 1. Call to Order of the Meeting**
- 2. Flag Salute**
- 3. Roll Call**
- 4. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 5. Public Comments by Citizens on matters Not Appearing on the Agenda**
- 6. City of Ojai Planning Commission Update**
- 7. Approval of the Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2021 - Draft Minutes attached**

Formal Items

- 8. Review of draft Letter to Supervisor LaVere regarding Assembly Bill 43 and future request of speed reduction on State Route 33 – Draft letter attached**

Informational Items

9. Announcements:

- a. Oak View Town Hall Meeting Summary
- b. County Redistricting Update
- c. OVMAC Mailer Update

10. Councilmember Comments

11. Adjournment:

- a. Next Meeting will be held on **Monday, January 24th at 7:00PM** at the **Oak View Community Center**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, and for persons who require accommodation for any audio, visual or other disability in order to review an agenda, or to participate in a meeting of the Municipal Advisory Council per the American Disabilities Act (ADA), may obtain information or assistance by Supervisor Matt LaVere's Office at 805-654-2703 or e-mail ovmac@ventura.org. Any such request for disability accommodation must be received at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting for which assistance is requested. Additional Ojai Valley MAC information is available online please visit us at: <https://www.ventura.org/board-of-supervisors/district-1/ovmac/>



**OJAI VALLEY
MUNICIPAL
ADVISORY
COUNCIL**

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
Monday, November 15, 2021 at 7:00 PM
Meeting via ZOOM
Ojai Valley, CA**

Chair: Chris Cohen, Vice Chair: Joseph Westbury
Council Members: Barbara Kennedy, Grace Malloy, Terry Wright

1. Call to Order of the Meeting

Executive Officer Clensay called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Flag Salute

3. Roll Call

PRESENT:

Chair Chris Cohen,
Council Member Terry Wright,
Council Member Grace Malloy

ABSENT:

At time of roll call: Vice Chair Joseph Westbury, Council Member Barbara Kennedy

STAFF: Maruja Clensay, Executive Officer

4. Adoption of the Agenda

Chair Cohen called to adopt the agenda for September 15, 2021

Moved: Cohen

Second: Wright

Upon call of the roll the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Wright, Malloy, Cohen

Noes: None

Absent: Kennedy, Westbury

Motion Carries: 3-0

5. Public Comments by Citizens on matters Not Appearing on the Agenda (Time limit per item – three minutes).

Executive Clensay called on persons who wanted to make a public comment:
3 speakers signed up. 3 minutes for each speaker was allotted.

John Brooks: Concerns about the McFarlan Compressor Project. He would like to motion for the OVMAC to consider future agenda item to discuss McFarlan Compressor Project. A motion to be approved by the OVMAC to recommend to Supervisor LaVere to go to the Board of Supervisors and recommend an EIR on the McFarlan Compressor. Mr. Brooks announced that, Westside Community Council, Chair, Ms. Liz Campos will speak more on the item.

Executive Clensay read email from Mr. Brooks calling for an EIR to help resolve the impact on the McFarlan Compressor. His motion on the email is to send request to the County Board of Supervisors via County Supervisor Matt LaVere.

Allen White: Question and proposal of a lighted crosswalk at Sulphur Mountain and North Ventura Avenue – Crosswalk leads to Trail Head at Ojai / Trail Bike Lane adjoining HWY 33. Pedestrians/Cyclists/Horses use this path to go to Sulphur Mountain Hiking Trail. A blind curve from Casitas Road is where motorist speed and just around the curve is the intersection to Sulphur Mountain Hiking Trail. A proposal would be that the Girls Scouts camp eastside of HWY 33 would like to use this path to get to the Bike Trail across the street. His suggestion is to improve conditions for this path and bring this item to the OVMAC to a future meeting.

Liz Campos: Concerned about the McFarlan Compressor Project proposed in a disadvantage area in West Ventura that flows into the Ojai Valley. Request for OVMAC to recommend to Supervisor LaVere to bring item to the Board of Supervisors asking for an EIR on the McFarlan Compressor Project.

OVMAC discussion: It was agreed to speak more on the request for Supervisor LaVere to bring the McFarlan Compression project during Item 11 - Councilmember Comments.

Questions: School site boundaries within OVMAC sphere of influence?

How may air overlay within the sphere of influence for OVMAC (*Air quality flow into Ojai Valley from Ventura Valley Zone*)?

6. City of Ojai Planning Commission Update

New Ojai Planning Commissioner introduction and Report: Jamie Bennett

Mr. Bennett reported on recent actions/future projects/future events

Future Public Presentation at the Boyd's Center at Serra City Park regarding future plan for/by the School Board and Developer for a first look/ first reaction has been scheduled for the public and planning commission.

The plan involves 200 room hotel and affordable housing, retention of the original historical auditorium, expansion of the bell tower, and replacement of the bell back into the tower, and demolition to allow this development.

In the next 2 months remodel of the Oaks Hotel – formally known as El Roblar. A new developer presentation of the plans will be coming soon to the planning commission meeting.

Routines Items: Restaurant serving alcohol on expansion of services to sidewalks.

Question: OVMAC – Impacts on Parking during and after above mentioned projects.

7. Approval of the Meeting Minutes of October 18, 2021

Motioned: Malloy

Seconded: Wright

Upon call of the roll the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Members Wright, Malloy, Kennedy, Vice Chair Westbury, Chair Cohen

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Motion Carries: 5-0

8. Resolution: Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council and The Community -Supported Grazing Program – seeking approval of resolution draft and sending to Supervisor LaVere submit to Supervisor LaVere as written

Motion: Malloy

Seconded: Vice Chair Wright

Upon call of the roll the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Members Wright, Malloy, Kennedy, Vice-Chair Westbury, Chair Cohen

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Motion Carries: 5-0

9. Cal-Trans (Mr. Abdi Saghafi) and California Highway Patrol (Officer Steve Lutzke) Presentation.

Council Discussion/Comments: Conclusion OVMAC: Action to send message of concerns to representatives from Caltrans and CHP to help reverse the speed to 35MPH. New Law effective in 2022. OVMAC approved for a written commitment from Caltrans and CHP. Mr. Saghafi will report back to Executive Clensay and will be sent to all parties to distribution list.

Outreach efforts: Email addresses will be re-created within the OVMAC sphere of influence.

Lutzke reported that majority of ticketing/concerns is speeding of local residents. Actions on reviewing what CHP can do to patrol better. Seeking feedback from residents and to share concerns.

Motion: Chair Cohen: Letter referencing AB 43 from OVMAC to Supervisor LaVere, Assemblymember Bennett, and Director of Caltrans to request reduction of speed limit to 35MPH as it was originally, and a commitment to make it happen. Including: Request from OVMAC to Caltrans for ATP Multimodal Updates; and Request from OVMAC to Caltrans for update on the Acceleration project at Creek Road; and Request from OVMAC to review speed limits before they are implemented by Caltrans.

Seconded: Member Kennedy

Upon call of the roll the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Members Wright, Malloy, Kennedy, Vice Chair Westbury, Chair Cohen

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Motion carries 5-0.

Public Comment, limited to 3 minutes per person:

- Leonard Owen: Concerned about speed increase and enforcement
- Flo White: Concerned about speed increase
- John Harrick (sp?): Concerned about speed increase and concerned about speeding at Nye Road.
- William Fortier: Absent when called upon to speak
- Richard Paulson: Concerned about speed increase
- Taissa Cofield: Concerned about current speed, cross walk near misses, and speed increase
- Yasmin Paulson: Concerned about speed increase, enforcement, cross walk misses

Abdi Saghafi, Caltrans representative mentioned a future minor project (700 ft – less than \$1M) of road improvement and traffic control at Creek Road entering HWY 33 – a refuse lane will be constructed to get on HWY 33. Mr. Saghafi will provide status and design to Council.

Executive Clensay advised to discuss further at a later time. Design link was shared on chat.

- Teri Rolands: Concerned about disconnect in speed increase and stripping project. Asked for Caltrans to please include community in future projects and for early input
- Judy Hohman: Concerned about Caltrans not having to do a CEQA compliance report; and to please consider a study on the “human environmental impacts”; and concerned about speed increase – recommended for public to contact State Legislature Officials
- Erin Mullins: Concerned about speed increase, asked for more enforcement on Larmier Avenue and HWY 33, and for the rest of the Oak View.

10. Review of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Application (Case No. PL21-0002)

County of Ventura, Resource Management Agency, Planner: Charles Anthony Email: charles.anthony@ventura.org/ 805-654-3683 presented CUP request to operate a proposed bed and breakfast inn with two existing single-family dwellings on East Villanova Road.

Public Comment: None

Motioned: Council Mallory to approve project - - amended motion to approve below conditions as proposed by Chair Cohen

Seconded: Council Kennedy

Chair Cohen proposed motion to be with conditions: Proactive communication about onsite contact, review with a 10-year term, limit of 6 adults per house, no on street parking

Council Discussion/Comments: Concerns about the Airbnb regarding access to information and onsite 24/7 contact on the property. Proper outreach to neighborhood for information on who to direct complaints, parking, noise, and any other nuisances to be addressed by live in operator.

Upon call of the roll the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Members Wright, Malloy, Kennedy, Vice Chair Westbury, Chair Cohen

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Motion carries 5-0.

- 11. Meiners Oaks Bike Accident on Lomita.** At the request of the OVMAC, discuss recent bicycle accident in Meiners Oaks and discuss any related requests from the OVMAC.

Council Discussion/Comments: Updated from Council Malloy that the accident was not directly on Lomita Avenue. Spoke to principal, Theresa Dutter, Miners Oaks Elementary regarding Safe Routes to Schools grant from 4 years ago assess the safety of Ojai of schools. No follow-up on study. A flashlight was installed on El Plano and El Roblar. There are many missed from vehicles, school children are crossing with adult supervision. Requests follow up on grant to see what action is being taken across the board within the OVMAC sphere of influence, such as, Mira Monte, Meiners Oaks, Nordhoff, and San Antonio.

Executive Clensay recommended to reach out to County staff to obtain information regarding the Back-to-School grant current status with the Ojai Unified School District and return to the Council for a report back at next meeting.

Public Comment: None

Motioned: Malloy

Seconded: Chair Cohen

Upon call of the roll the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Members Wright, Malloy, Kennedy, Vice Chair Westbury, Chair Cohen

Noes: 0

Absent: 0

Motion carries 5-0

Informational Items

- 12. Announcements:** Executive Clensay went over the informational items with Council
- December 20th Meeting will be back **IN PERSON** at the OVCC.
 - New OVMAC Facebook Page
 - OVMAC Logo Feedback
 - Ojai Fire Station Grand Opening – January 2022
 - Redistricting Updates (as applicable)

13. Councilmember Comments:

Council Kennedy announced: Oakview Town Hall Meeting at Oak View Community Center on November 18, 2021 – all welcomed

14. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM

Next Meeting will be held on Monday, December 20th at 7:00PM at the Oak View Community Center

DRAFT

Draft Letter to Supervisor LaVere regarding State Route 33 Speeds

December 20, 2021

Dear Supervisor LaVere,

On November 15th 2021, the Ojai Valley Municipal Advisory Council (OVMAC) received an informative presentation from Caltrans District 7 representatives regarding the recently increased speed from 35 MPH to 40 MPH along State Route 33 through the Casitas Springs, Oak View, and Meiners Oaks Communities in the Ojai Valley. During this presentation, it was brought to our attention that a new Assembly Bill (specifically Assembly Bill 43 - AB 43), would allow local jurisdictions to garner control over their local state highways and request lower speed limits were merited in the context of adjacent residential and business communities. We understand that this law will become effective on January 1, 2022.

At the OVMAC November 15th meeting, the OVMAC unanimously approved a request that the District 1 office contact the required State and Caltrans representatives to implement AB 43 and return the speed limit to 35 MPH along this portion of State Route 33. We understand that this change could be implemented sooner than later after the first of the year with your assistance.

Please accept this letter as a formal request to have you contact the Director of Caltrans Mr. Tony Tavares and State Assembly member Steve Bennett to enact AB 43 and return the 35 MPH speed limit on State Route 33. We would appreciate such confirmation being iterated in writing from Caltrans to ensure their commitment to this request. Please let us know if additional correspondence is requested from the OVMAC to assist with this request.

Sincerely,

Maruja Clensay

OVMAC Executive Officer

CC: OVMAC Members Wright, Kennedy, Malloy, Vice Chair Westbury, and Chair Cohen