



**OJAI VALLEY
MUNICIPAL
ADVISORY
COUNCIL**

FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 18, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Meeting IN-PERSON at the Oak View Community Center

18 Valley Road

Oak View, CA 93022

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 WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD.

1. Call to Order of the Meeting

Chair Cohen called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM

2. Flag Salute

3. Roll Call

PRESENT: Chair Cohen, Vice Chair Westbury, Council Member Terry Wright, Council Member Barbara Kenney, Council Member Grace Malloy

ABSENT: N/A

STAFF: Maruja Clensay, Executive Officer

4. Adoption of the Agenda

Chair Cohen initially rearranged agenda to allow for Informational Items to be presented before Formal Item, but returned to Agenda as presented after Item No. 5 – Public Comment

5. Public Comments by Citizens on matters Not Appearing on the Agenda

Speaker 1 – Ron Solorzano from Oak View Library spoke regarding library activities and future student worker opportunities at the library. Encourages all OVMAC members and attending parties to visit the library to find out more about this opportunity and to share with any local high-schoolers who may be interested.

Speaker 2 – John Brooks from Oak View spoke related to the SoCalGas Compressor station located at Olive Street in the City of Ventura. The compressor site is 4.5 miles away from the Ojai Valley. Mr. Brooks cited environmental justice concerns for all our County residents and requested OVMAC to issue resolution requiring additional environmental analysis.

Speaker 3 – Stephen Weed from Oak View stated he was happy to see everyone in person. He also acknowledged Mr. Brooks' comments related to the gas compressor station and thanked the OVMAC for revisiting the Highway 33 Intermodal Study that was completed in early 2020.

6. City of Ojai Planning Commission Update – N/A as no Commissioner was present.

7. Approval of the Meeting Minutes of September 20, 2021

- a. Minutes approved unanimously, motion made by Member Kennedy and seconded by Vice Chair Westbury

Formal Items

8. Presentation on the Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council's Community-Supported Grazing Program (CSGP):

- a. Presenters will be Christopher Danch, OVFSC Executive Director, Cole Bush, CSGP Program Director, and Michael Leicht, CSGP Director of Community Outreach. The presentation will cover the vision of the CSGP, the outcome of the first six months of the program, next steps and long-range planning.

OVMAC and attendees received informational presentation from the Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council and Community Supported Grazing Program representatives. See enclosed power point for more information.

The Council made a motion to provide a Resolution in support of the Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council's efforts and mission. This motion was approved unanimously, motion made by Member Malloy and seconded by Member Wright.

9. OVMAC Meeting Schedule for 2022:

- a. Adopt the draft OVMAC 2022 Meeting Calendar as attached.

The Council voted unanimously to approve the 2022 Calendar as presented.

10. Future Item Scheduling:

- a. Request OVMAC to reschedule County Fire Presentation to December 20, 2021 meeting or January 24, 2022.

The Council voted unanimously to have the County Fire presentation be tentatively scheduled for the January 24, 2022 OVMAC Meeting.

Informational Items

11. Executive Officer Updates:

- a. OVMAC Mailers
 - i. Supervisor LaVere's office relayed that it will cost approximately \$3,000.00 to proceed with the new mailers to owners and occupants within the OVMAC boundary.
 - ii. We will proceed with mailers in January 2022 after the Council is able to vote on some prototypes.
- b. Cal-Trans and CHP Representatives at November 15th Meeting
- c. November 15th Meeting will be on ZOOM
- d. December 20th Meeting will be back IN PERSON at the OVCC.

12. Councilmember Comments

Councilmember Malloy mentioned a recent bicycle accident in Meiners Oaks and wanted to discuss any related OVMAC actions at the subsequent November meeting.

13. Adjournment –

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Next OVMAC Meeting 11/15/21 VIA ZOOM

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/>

Presentation on the Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council's Community-Supported Grazing Program

**A RESOLUTION OF THE OJAI VALLEY MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (OVMAC),
WHICH SERVES THE UNINCORPORATED OJAI VALLEY IN DISTRICT 1
OF THE COUNTY OF VENTURA, IN SUPPORT OF THE
OJAI VALLEY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL AND
THE COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED GRAZING PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Ventura supported the creation and operation of a municipal advisory council for the Ojai Valley Area by original resolution adopted on July 23, 1974 and resolutions of July 1, 1975, February 10, 1976, November 28, 1978, September 25, 1979, July 9, 1996, March 7, 2009, and February 10, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Ojai Valley Municipal Advisory Council (OVMAC) provides the residents of the unincorporated Ojai Valley with a forum through which it reviews discretionary development of land and County public works projects and make recommendations on a continuing basis; and

WHEREAS, the OVMAC was created to increase citizen participation in County government on issues pertaining to the unincorporated portions of the Ojai Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Ojai Valley area is subject and prone to wildfire risk, as evidenced with the Thomas Fire on December 4, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the OVMAC hosted the Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council at a public meeting on June 21, 2021 and discussed the history of the organization and its current efforts related to wildfire risk mitigation strategy, wildfire prevention and preparedness, vegetation management, and collaborative efforts with other county agencies and organizations related to wildfire safety and education.

WHEREAS, the OVMAC hosted the Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council and Community-Supported Grazing Program on October 18, 2021 to further discuss wildfire prevention education, public safety, and ecological resilience through prescribed herbivory and grazing; and

WHEREAS, the OVMAC members voted unanimously on October 18, 2021 to issue this Resolution in support of the community grazing aspect of the Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council's activities, and their collective endeavor to expand the reach and impact of prescribed herbivory as an efficient, effective, and accessible strategy to mitigate wildfire risk.

WHEREAS, the OVMAC requests the Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council and the Community-Supported Grazing Program return to the OVMAC to describe any regulatory hurdles they are facing with the implementation of their efforts.

Upon motion of Malloy, seconded by Wright and duly carried, the foregoing resolution was adopted on November 15, 2021.

ATTEST:

Maruja Clensay,
Executive Officer
Ojai Valley Municipal Advisory Council

By: 



Ojai Valley Fire Safe Council

Community-Supported Grazing Program

Christopher Danch, Executive Director

Brittany “Cole” Bush, Program Director

Michael Leicht, Dir. Community Outreach

Recent Events

Community-Supported Grazing Program Stakeholder Convening

June 25, 2021

A Success!

Sponsors:

- Ojai Retreat & Inn
- Flying Embers
- Topa Topa Brewing Company
- Ojai Unified School District



4th of July Parade



Photo Credits-Stephen Adams

Community-Supported Grazing Program

Outcomes-First 4 Months



Grants Awarded \$65,000

Donations \$16,000

Total \$83,000

Five Demonstration Sites & Partners

Other Key Partners

Demonstration
Partners-Grazing \$73,250

Grazing Fees Total \$84,910

Acres Grazed 200 W/ 700 animals

Grants Pending \$27,500

- Globetrotter Foundation
- SWRCB-VCRC

Other Pending \$9,975 (VCFD)

Other \$ TBD (KFA)

Tools & Equipment \$23,762

PREScribed GRAZING BENEFITS IN THE OJAI VALLEY

Wildfire Safety

- Fuel reduction

- Vegetation Management

Land

- Invasive plants

- Soil

- Watershed Protection

- Economic Development

- Local Food and Fiber Sheds

- Overall Community Resilience



WHAT IS THE CSGP?

GOAL & VISION OF THE CSGP

Overall increased wildfire safety and resiliency for the Ojai Valley and Ventura River Watershed

Specifically:

- Reduced fuel loads over a much greater area
- Large-Scale Wildfire Intensity Reduction Zone- the “Corridor”-continuous as possible
- Better firefighter access
- Improved hydrology
- Replicable, scalable model
- Ecosystem health
- Watershed Protection
- Decreased reliance on fossil fuel-reduced emissions and carbon sequestration
- Building local and regional food and fiber sheds
- Economic development and resiliency



OUR APPROACH--MULTI-STAKEHOLDER

- COMMUNITY - ANNUAL "GOAT FUND ME"
- GOVERNMENT
 - PUBLIC SAFETY
 - RESOURCE CONSERVATION
 - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- EDUCATIONAL + SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY
- LANDOWNERS & MANAGERS-PUBLIC & PRIVATE
- PRIVATE INDUSTRY
- CONSERVATION + ENVIRONMENTAL
- FUNDERS + INVESTMENT



Concerned Resource & Environmental Workers



LONG-TERM



To expand the reach and impact using prescribed herbivory as an efficient, effective, and accessible strategy to **mitigate wild fire risk, increase public safety, and ecological resilience** through year round grazing of the corridor.

To pilot, test, and demonstrate a transferable framework for other communities to adopt.

SHORT-TERM



BUILD PROGRAMMATIC FOUNDATION FOR SCALING & SUSTAINABILITY

REALIZE ECONOMIES OF SCALE

PARTNERSHIPS

FUND DEVELOPMENT

“PROOF OF CONCEPT” MODEL

LEGAL STRUCTURE

RISK ALLOCATION AND MANAGEMENT

LANDOWNER PARTICIPATION

BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES

Opportunities for the CSGP

- **COST OF GRAZING**
 - **TO LANDOWNER**
 - **TO GRAZER**
- **LAND ACCESS**
- **LACK OF OFF-SEASON PASTURE & REVENUE**
- **NEED MORE GRAZERS-SMALL AND MEDIUM**
- **LACK OF COORDINATION AND COOPERATION ACROSS JURISDICTIONAL LINES AND PROPERTY BOUNDARIES**
- **ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE & COMPLIANCE**
- **GETTING COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR GRAZING ON PRIVATE LAND**
- **LONG-TERM PLANNING HORIZONS**

FIRST YEAR GOALS

April 2021 to April 2022

- **Launched in April 2021**



- **Three or more Demonstration Sites and Partners**
- **Two public events**
 - **Stakeholder Convening**
 - **Launch Crowdfunding Campaign**
- **Mapping of Corridor (“Goat Super Highway”)**
- **Legal Structure & Risk Management**
- **Landowner Participating Agreement**
- **Develop grazing prescriptions for next year (UC Extension + OVLC Collaboration)**
- **Develop RFP documentation & process for grazing contracts**
- **Continued Fund Development**

Community-Supported Grazing Program

Next Steps

- Development Project Budget (1-3 Years)
- Plan & Launch Fundraising Campaign
 - Crowdfunding Campaign
 - Continue grant writing/corporate sponsorship
 - Targeted Donors
- Map Corridor/Landowner Identification
 - Continue key landowner contacts
- Develop initial educational curriculum
- Continued Program Development
 - Organizational Chart
 - Legal Structure & Templates
 - Risk Management
 - Tools & Equipment Lending Program
 - Planning-Programmatic EIR for VR Watershed



Watersheds, Wildlife, and Wildfires don't give a darn about our property lines, political differences, and economic status.

We together have to become a part of the solution to build resilience in a world with an increasingly unpredictable climate.

Our collaboration seeks to build a model of community-driven, community-supported solutions.



THANKS!

QUESTIONS?

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