



OJAI VALLEY MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

**18 Valley Road, Oak View
Monday, March 21, 2022 - 7:00PM**

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 February 28, 2022 - Draft Minutes attached**
- 8. Announcements and Updates**
 - a. Correspondence Received – Caltrans Letter attached re: Speed limit
 - b. Ojai Valley Traffic Policy – OVMAC update (future presentation TBD)
 - c. Beautification Event at Nordhoff High School on March 26, 2022
 - d. Caltrans Highway 33 Multi-Modal Presentation to OVMAC – May 16, 2022
 - e. Congressman Carbajal Meet-n-Greet - Tentatively June 2022 (TBD)
- 9. Councilmember Comments**
- 10. Adjournment:** Next Meeting will be held on **Monday, April 18, 2022 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 at: <https://www.ventura.org/board-of-supervisors/district-1/ovmac/>



**OJAI VALLEY
MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 28, 2022 - 7:00PM

Chair: Chris Cohen, **Vice Chair:** Joseph Westbury

Council Members: Barbara Kennedy, Grace Malloy, Terry Wright

REGARDING PUBLIC COMMENTS PRIOR TO THE MEETING:

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1. Call to Order of the Meeting

2. Flag Salute

3. Roll Call

PRESENT:

Vice Chair Westbury, Member Wright, and Member Malloy

ABSENT:

Member Kennedy, Chair Cohen

STAFF:

District 1 Supervisor Matt LaVere
Maruja Clensay, OVMAC Executive Officer

4. Adoption of the Agenda

Motioned: Westbury

Seconded: Wright

Upon call of the roll the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Vice Chair Westbury, Member Wright, Member Malloy

Noes: 0

Motion carries: 3-0

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

Public Speaker #1: Jeffrey Starkweather

Mr. Starkweather began his comments by thanking Supervisor LaVere for his support on Measures A and B. Suggested future speaker before the OVMAC should be Tomas Rebecki or other to provide informational presentation regarding antiquated oil and gas wells.

Primary comments involved the request of the OVMAC to revisit the existing Ojai Valley Area Plan's traffic metric and use of Level of Service (LOS) in lieu of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMTs). Mr. Starkweather provided a packet of materials regarding this topic to the OVMAC (these materials were also sent to the OVMAC email distribution list on March 1, 2022). Mr. Starkweather noted that there are no housing sites identified in the Ojai Valley as part of the County's General Plan Housing Element. Why not Ojai? Mr. Starkweather detailed recent legislation that looks at traffic impacts differently, and this should be reassessed by the County, with support from the MAC. He mentioned a Rotary Club meeting that had a presentation from the Board of Realtors detailing that the average sale of a single family residence was 1.5 million dollars in the Ojai Valley. People coming from LA County and buying properties while working from home. We need affordable housing in the Valley. He requested the OVMAC placed this item on a future agenda for further discussion.

Vice Chair Westbury requested of the Executive Officer to add this topic to the March 21, 2022 agenda.

Public Speaker #2: Ron Solorzano

Mr. Solorzano noted that the Ojai Valley libraries are now fully open to the public all 7 days a week. Have new programs coming. The Oak View Library is still looking for student workers and a Library Tech 1 position is still open. Stop by the library for more details.

Public Speaker #3: Sandra Congdon

Ms. Congdon paused her request to speak until later in the agenda when we discussed the Caltrans update.

Public Speaker #4: Sue Poland

Ms. Poland is from the California Women of Agriculture – Ventura County Chapter - which is an all-volunteer and all-women group of farmers in the State. Here for any Q&A regarding agriculture and for networking opportunities – just ask us! There are scholarship opportunities and agricultural career opportunities. Find out more:

<https://www.cwaventura.com/>

Public Speaker #5: Steve Weed

Mr. Weed underscored the need to talk about traffic and local issues that the traffic policy was creating by preventing affordable housing from coming to the Valley. He also acknowledged the recent speed change per Supervisor LaVere's letter to Caltrans and was appreciative. Also discussed the future of the Highway 33 multimodal study and the need to see that through as it's a long-term change needed for the valley.

Public Speaker #6: John Brooks

Mr. Brooks thanked Supervisor LaVere for listening to his requests regarding the SoCal Gas Compressor station and the recent Board of Supervisor's action regarding the request for a Neighborhood Compatibility analysis. It received a unanimous vote from the Board of Supervisors. He also mentioned how just this past weekend a 2" line ruptured at Olive and Barrett. The existing presence of the 12" high pressure gas line under the Avenue is of concern and he is thankful for Supervisor's request regarding this matter.

Public Speaker #7: Bill Weirick

Mr. Weirick underscored Mr. Starkweather's (Speaker #1) comments regarding needing to revisit the existing traffic policy and ask the Board of Supervisors to change the traffic metric from Level of Service (LOS) to Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). He recited language from the State's Office of Planning and Research and how Level of Service is a metric that is directly connected to urban sprawl, and how LOS ends up making more vehicles miles traveled as a result. He also echoed bringing this on a future OVMAC agenda to assist this request.

6. City of Ojai Planning Commission Update

Executive Officer Clensay read an email from the City of Ojai Planning Commissioner Quilici into the record for the benefit of the order.

7. Approval of the Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2022

Moved to Approve as presented.

Motioned: Wright

Seconded: Malloy

Upon call of the roll the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Vice Chair Westbury, Member Wright, Member Malloy

Noes: 0

Motion carries: 3-0

8. Announcements/Updates

- a. Beautification Event at Nordhoff High School on March 26, 2022

Executive Officer Clensay noted that there will be a drive-up clean up event at Nordhoff High School from 9AM – 1PM on Saturday, March 26th. Large items, yard waste, trash, etc. will be accepted.

- b. Caltrans Letter RE: SR 33 Speed Update

Executive Officer Clensay noted that the District 1 office received email from Caltrans indicating that the recently changed speed limit signs will be changed.

Public Speaker #3: Sandra Congdon took the floor to express her concerns regarding the enforcement of the 35MPH speed limit. States she hardly sees any enforcement. Requested that CHP come to the OVMAC to make a presentation about their enforcement procedures and to answer community questions and concerns.

Public Speaker #5: Steve Weed commented further on this on behalf of Tian Browman, and extended her thanks regarding the speed limit change, and also noted that now people will go on Creek Road at increased speeds. The discussion highlighted the City of Ojai's recent discussions on changing the Sherriff contract would affect levels of enforcement on Creek Road.

- c. Congressman Salud Carbajal – Ojai Valley Meet and Greet

Executive Officer Clensay stated that the District 1 office is coordinating with Congressman Carbajal's office to schedule a larger Meet-n-Greet event, possible at Camp Comfort and tentatively in the month of June. Future details are still pending.

9. Councilmember Comments - No comments were made.

10. Adjournment: Next Meeting will be held on **Monday, March 21st, 2022 at 7:00PM** at the **Oak View Community Center**

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Caltrans Letter dated March 4, 2022 to Supervisor LaVere

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 7
100 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 100 | LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
PHONE (213) 897-0362 | FAX (213) 897-0360 TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov



March 4, 2022

The Honorable Matt LaVere
Supervisor, First District
County of Ventura
Government Center, Hall of Administration
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Dear Supervisor LaVere:

Thank you for your January 12, 2022 letter to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) requesting the restoration of the posted speed limit from 40 miles per hour (MPH) to 35 MPH along State Route 33 (SR-33)/North Ventura Avenue, within the communities of Casitas Springs, Oak View and Meiners Oaks in Ojai Valley.

With the passage of Assembly Bill 43 pertaining to traffic safety, we have reevaluated our 2019 Engineering and Traffic Survey (E&TS). As a result of this reevaluation, Caltrans will be restoring the posted speed limit to 35 MPH along SR-33 route segments just north of Casitas Vista Road to Baldwin Avenue. We anticipate 35 MPH regulatory signs will be installed by mid-April 2022.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact Mr. Rafael Molina, Deputy District Director, Division of Traffic Operations at (213) 700-7197 or by e-mail at Rafael.Molina@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Tavares'.

TONY F. TAVARES
District Director

c: Assemblymember Steve Bennett, Assembly District 37
James Vega, City Manager, City of Ojai
Officer Steve Lutzke, California Highway Patrol, Ventura