

OJAI VALLEY MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PURPOSE OF THE MAC

-The Ojai Valley Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) was created by the County Board of Supervisors in 1974 to increase citizen participation in County government on issues pertaining to the unincorporated portions of the Ojai Valley. The MAC reviews significant County land development, public works, and planning proposals for the unincorporated Ojai Valley within the mapped OVMAC jurisdiction. Local representatives and evening public meetings held in the Valley enable greater citizen participation and representation of Ojai Valley values in County government. The MAC strives to listen to all viewpoints and reach a balanced consensus on the matters before them. The actions of the MAC are guided by the Ojai Valley Area Plan- the governing General Plan for the Valley. All decisions by the Municipal Advisory Council are advisory to the County Planning Department, Planning Commission, and Board of Supervisors.

MAC MEMBERS

-The MAC is made up of five representatives from the unincorporated areas of the Ojai Valley. The members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors to four-year terms. The current members of the MAC are:

Terry Wright, Joe Westbury, Jill Borgeson, Chris Cohen, and Grace Malloy

MEETING DAYS, TIME, and AGENDAS

- The MAC generally holds public meetings on the third Monday of alternate months, at 7:00 PM, at the Oak View Community Center, 18 Valley Road, Oak View. Agendas are posted on Supervisor Bennett's website at www.countyofventura.org/ovmac and are also available at the meetings.

CITIZEN INPUT

-Residents of the Valley are encouraged to attend meetings of the MAC. A time period is set aside at the beginning of each meeting for citizens to address the MAC regarding issues that are not on the MAC agenda. Citizens may get on the email distribution list for MAC agendas by contacting County Supervisor Steve Bennett's office; see below. In order for the MAC to fulfill its purpose as a community forum, people wishing to communicate with MAC members are strongly encouraged to attend the MAC meetings. Other communications can be addressed to the MAC via Supervisor Steve Bennett's office, 800 S. Victoria Ave. Ventura, 93009-1900; phone: 654-2703; e-mail: steve.offerman@ventura.org

MAC MEETING PROCEDURES

- MAC meetings are conducted following the procedure of official County public hearings. Items which are not on the agenda may be discussed, but no action can be taken. In conducting the hearings on items that are on the agenda, the MAC chair will first ask for a staff presentation from County staff, followed by a presentation by the project applicant or representative. The MAC chair will then open the hearing for public comment. Speakers should first state their name and address. If there are many speakers, a time limit may be imposed. Speakers may only speak once. After all members of the audience have had a chance to speak, the applicant/representative will be given a chance to rebut or add testimony. The Chair will then close public comments, and the MAC members will deliberate their action on the issue. Typically, the MAC will vote to recommend either: denial of the project before them, approval of the project as presented, or approval with alterations and conditions as recommended by the MAC.