

CASA CONEJO MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
July 20, 2011

The Casa Conejo MAC Held an Official Meeting Wednesday, July 20, 2011, 6:00 p.m.
at the Borchard Community Center, 190 Reino Road, Newbury Park

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by **Dustin Woomer** at 6:11 P.M. MAC members **Clara Ann Deemer, Jennifer Clark, Janell Smith,** and **Megan Sandoval** were present. **Edward J. Villa, Jr.** was absent.

2. Flag salute

3. Adoption of the Agenda

No revisions were made to the agenda.

4. Approval of the minutes of January 19, 2011

Megan Sandoval moved to approve the minutes for March 16, 2011 and May 18, 2011 without revisions. **Jennifer Clark** made the second. Motion passed 5/0.

5. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks

Supervisor Parks told the MAC that the Board of Supervisors recently approved the Simi Valley Landfill expansion which requires an extra fee to trash haulers from outside the County to discourage out-of-county disposal. In addition, she said the City of Simi Valley negotiated \$100M in benefits, while another \$100M net will benefit the County, 40% of which was conceptually agreed by the Board to be put aside for open space, County parks and recycling, with a final vote slated for September. Supervisor Parks also said that she is hosting a dinner event on July 21 where State Controller John Chiang will address the group about investigating redevelopment funds and the City of Bell. Supervisor Parks informed the MAC that District 2 boundaries now include CSUCI and Somis. In closing, she told the MAC that her office is moving to 625 Hillcrest, kitty-corner from the Oaks Mall, and that the new space includes 30 parking spaces, space for Veteran's Services and a large conference area that could accommodate the MAC during the month that the school is closed as well as other community groups.

6. Public Comments

Jack Doman inquired about a motor home that is parked in front of the property he recently acquired in the 2800 block of Theresa. He said that he and his wife drove to the home and the owner of the motor home had parked his motorcycle on the sidewalk and was on their porch with the water turned on. **Captain Frank O'Hanlon** told Mr. Doman that he would follow up on his complaint. In addition, **Janet Wall** said that she will send the complaint to Ventura County code enforcement.

Nathan Borin asked if the speed trailer could be installed on Ruth again. In addition, Mr. Borin said that the signal at Ruth and Old Conejo needs timing adjustments, and that he had talked with Dave Fleisch and asked him to determine if 25mph speed signs could be installed on Ruth. **Jay Spurgin** told Mr. Borin that the timing on the lights change to correspond with peak traffic patterns, but that he would ask the engineer at the City to check the light at Ruth and Old Conejo.

7. Council Comments

Janell Smith said that she received a call from a neighbor who told her an empty house on Theresa was vandalized and that 4 people had a party inside after breaking in. She expressed concern that other abandoned properties have weeds growing that are a fire hazard.

8. Information items

a. Public Safety Reports (Sheriff, CHP, TOPD, etc.)

Captain Frank O'Hanlon told the MAC that since July 1st crime has been down in the Casa Conejo area, particularly violent crime. In addition, he said graffiti was reduced considerably. He informed the MAC that a couple individuals from a local gang are no longer on the streets. However, he noted that a more concerning trend is a series of residential burglaries on Michael Drive, Theresa Drive and the 3000 block of Gerald Drive.

Entry was made through an unlocked window, a doggy door, and in one situation, the residents were home. Officer O'Hanlon reminded residents to keep doors and windows locked and to not hesitate to call if suspicious activity is observed. Officer O'Hanlon told the MAC that the reverse contract with the Sheriff Department and Thousand Oaks Police Department went into effect on July 1, with the Sheriff contracting with the City of Thousand Oaks for services. He asked residents to feel free to call dispatch at (805) 654-9511 or 911 for emergencies.

Clara Ann Deemer reminded residents that to receive updates from the Sheriff's Department on local crime, they should log onto ecsheriff.watch@ventura.org to register their e-mail address.

b. Flood Insurance study update

Sergio Vargas, Deputy Director, Planning and Regulatory Division, of the Ventura County Watershed Protection District, attended the meeting to provide updates on the flood insurance study in the Newbury Park area. He said that Conejo Creek was examined in order to evaluate and find solutions to the flooding problems identified by FEMA. Mr. Vargas said that a more accurate virtual terrain model is used that supersedes the earlier two dimensional model for identifying how water will drain and to ensure accuracy of the final map. He concluded by telling the MAC that WPD is working with the City of Thousand Oaks to determine if the channel needs widening and to study whether so many people need to carry flood insurance. **Clara Ann Deemer** suggested that residents who encounter flooding problems on their property call Sergio Vargas before altering the terrain on their property. **Dustin Woomer** thanked Mr. Vargas for attending the meeting and requested that the MAC continue to receive updates on the final map.

c. Property tax rate comparison

Supervisor Parks told the MAC that in a follow-up to their request for a comparison, 4 different nearby properties were examined for special assessments on their yearly property tax bills. Two of the properties were in Casa Conejo on North Wendy Drive. Two of the properties were in the City of Thousand Oaks, on North Wendy Drive and Jessica Street. The results showed that assessments were quite similar, although Casa Conejo pays for street sweeping and Thousand Oaks residents pay for street lighting. In addition, Thousand Oaks residents pay double for NPDES charges to Ventura County and the City of Thousand Oaks while Casa Conejo residents only pay for NPDES to Ventura County. A request was made to also compare utility costs such as trash and sewer.

d. Casa Conejo CERT news

The update was continued to the September 21st meeting.

e. Casa Conejo graffiti removal update

Janet Wall provided the update in Ed Villa's absence. She said the Casa Conejo Graffiti Removal Intervention Team joined with the Westlake GRIT and painted over graffiti in Westlake Village and at Wendy/Gerald, Wendy/Doreen and several other locations in Casa Conejo on July 2nd. In addition, she said the Santa Rosa Valley GRIT was also busy eliminating graffiti in channels in their community. She asked that anyone interested in joining the team provide their name and e-mail address after the meeting, or call her at Supervisor Parks' office (214-2510) to be added to the list for the next training session at Watershed Protection District office in Moorpark. She added that the training session lasts for approximately 2 hours and the trainees visit a channel to practice safe procedures. Trainees receive Individual Encroachment Permits from WPD.

f. Gerald/Alice/Wendy sewer line maintenance

Jay Spurgin, City of Thousand Oaks Public Works Director, told the MAC that with respect to the sewer construction project scheduled for Gerald, Alice and Wendy, that the existing trunk lines were increased for capacity over a year ago. He said the current project addresses old clay pipes from 50 years ago that are cracked and have roots growing into them. He said their condition allows water intrusion and they need to be re-lined. The pipes will be cured in place, he said, like pulling a sock inside out through the manholes. He added that the repairs will be completed without tearing up the streets; however, homeowners will receive notices that there will be one day periods where they cannot use the sewer. Mr. Spurgin said the notice said "150 days" for completion of the project, but for this area, it will be completed in approximately 2-3 weeks. He said there may be some "No Parking" zones for the 2-3 week period.

Mr. Spurgin was asked about the Wendy Bridge and the sidewalk condition at the Old Conejo/Shopping Center intersection. He told the MAC that construction on the bridge will begin early next year and is expected to last for 14-16 months. The sidewalk in front of the shopping center will be completed this year he said.

g. Speed humps on Casa Conejo streets

Supervisor Linda Parks explained that there are 3 facets to obtaining speed humps on County roads:

1. Traffic volume
2. Agreement of residents living on the street via a petition
3. Residents pay for the speed humps

She told the MAC that the process goes through the Fire Department for approval. Another important aspect of requesting speed humps is to determine if they will divert traffic to another street because drivers avoid driving over speed humps.

9. Action items

a. Selection process for filling MAC seats, appoint interview committee

Supervisor Linda Parks said that every few years, seats on the MAC come up for reappointment. **Nathan Borin** asked why seats are not elected. Supervisor Parks explained that there can be considerable costs associated with elections, and many MACs have boards that are appointed. She added that if the momentum is there, that future elections are possible. In addition, Supervisor Parks said she would like a subcommittee to conduct candidate interviews with her. **Dustin Woomer** moved to recommend an interview subcommittee nominating Clara Ann Deemer and Jennifer Clark. **Megan Sandoval** made the second. Motion passed 5/0.

b. Community Beautification Subcommittee

Jennifer Clark suggested that a subcommittee be formed to spearhead beautification events in the Casa Conejo area, including service to the elderly during the next Community Beautification Event. **Supervisor Parks** said that Janet Wall will be available to attend meetings and assist with subcommittee recommendations and three members of the MAC could comprise the subcommittee. **Jennifer Clark** moved to lead the subcommittee with Megan Sandoval and Clara Ann Deemer. **Megan Sandoval** made the second. Motion passed 5/0.

10. Suggestions for future agenda items

Comparison rates between sewer, water and trash charges
Lit STOP sign at Lesser and Jenny
Flood control report update
CERT update
Graffiti Removal Intervention Team Update

12. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m. until September 21, 2011 at Walnut Elementary School