

CASA CONEJO MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
March 20, 2013

**The Casa Conejo MAC Held an Official Meeting Wednesday, March 20, 2013,
6:00 p.m. at Walnut Elementary School, 581 Dena Drive, Newbury Park**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by **Dustin Woomer** at 6:07 P.M. MAC members **Richard Twomey, Jr., Steven Wasco, and Edward Villa, Sr.** were present. MAC members **David Ayers, Janell Smith, and Shannon Prachyl** were absent.

2. Flag salute

Dustin Woomer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Election of MAC Chair and Vice Chair

Edward Villa, Sr. moved to reschedule the election of MAC Chair and Vice Chair to the May 15, 2013 MAC meeting. **Steven Wasco** made the second. The motion passed 5/0.

4. Approval of the Minutes

Steven Wasco, moved to approve the January 16, 2013 minutes as submitted. **Edward Villa, Sr.** made the second. The motion passed 5/0.

5. Adoption of the Agenda

There were no revisions to the agenda.

6. Public Safety Reports (CHP, Sheriff's Department, etc.)

Officer Greg Musgrove, California Highway Patrol, told the MAC that the speed trailer at Jenny Drive and Carl Drive is functioning. He said he is open to suggestions for other possible sites. Officer Musgrove also said that due to federal grant money, there will be more CHP officers on the 101 highway with a focus on DUI driving. Beginning in April, they will also be looking specifically for distracted teen drivers.

Sergeant Chris Payton, Ventura County Sheriff's Office, said to be aware that the Patrol Division will be issuing more parking violations around Newbury Park High School. He said there has been a spike in burglaries in homes and cars all over the Thousand Oaks area, including Dos Vientos and Westlake Village, and particularly in the north end of Thousand Oaks. He said burglars often enter by breaking sliding glass doors. Burglars may also call homes to see if residents are in, so be aware of unknown numbers on Caller ID systems. He warned residents to be aware of people carrying pillow cases, to report any unknown cars in the neighborhood, and to keep doors and windows locked. He said burglars are also targeting people going to gyms, particularly women that might leave purses and other valuables in their cars. He cautioned that all valuables left in cars should be hidden.

7. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks

Supervisor Parks told the MAC she has provided applications for the Thousand Oaks Police Department's Citizen's Academy for interested residents. She mentioned the next Community Beautification Event is scheduled on April 13, 2013 at the Newbury Park High School parking lot. She also alerted the MAC that they will have an opportunity to attend a hearing on new contracts with trash haulers at a Solid Waste Hearing at 10:00 am on April 9 at the Board of Supervisors Chambers. Supervisor Parks gave a brief update on the status of the neon sign on Michael Drive, which will go to pre-trial motions on April 18, and a jury trial thereafter, possibly lasting 5 days. She discussed an upcoming meeting in her office regarding a SCAG planning grant opportunity for a bike/pedestrian path along the Arroyo Conejo channel. Finally, she said it had been suggested to her by an attendee at the last MAC meeting to have Public and Council Comments moved to later on the agenda to ensure Information and Action items can be heard by community members who might have to leave the MAC meeting early. She asked the MAC to consider this request.

8. Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Debbie Ambrose expressed concern about backed up traffic on Michael Drive if a traffic light is installed at Wendy Drive and Gerald Drive. She said there is only one way in and out, and even without a light the traffic can get backed up and residents have to wait a long time to turn. **Supervisor Parks** said the traffic engineer that reported at the last MAC meeting said moving cars on Wendy Drive are the priority and the light would remain green unless triggered by cars. She also suggested a citizen representative could be involved in communication on this issue to ensure all concerns are addressed, as was done when traffic signals were installed on Santa Rosa Road. **Ed Villa, Sr.** said the light should reduce traffic on Wendy Drive because drivers may prefer to use Borchard Road to avoid the signals.

Nathan Borin asked if there could be coordination between Thousand Oaks Police Department and California Highway Patrol to help with traffic control and speeding violations in Casa Conejo. **Supervisor Parks** said the County and the City have a reverse contract in which the Thousand Oaks Police will come into the unincorporated area. She said there has been past success in getting CHP to come out at specific times and days, for example when schools get out, and her office or the MAC can work to get that information to CHP.

9. Council Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Ed Villa, Sr. mentioned he has a copy of the street sweeping calendar and can provide copies for anyone who would like one. **Supervisor Parks** said she will post the street sweeping calendar on her website if it's not there.

10. Information items

a. Crosswalks to Walnut Elementary School

There was no report.

b. Wendy Bridge Widening Update

Cliff Finley, Thousand Oaks City Engineer, said the Wendy Bridge widening project is on schedule and will be completed by fall. He said there will be another closure by the end of next week on the northbound on-ramp from southbound Wendy Drive. The closure will last six weeks and is necessary to ensure the safe passage of pedestrians along the west side of the bridge.

Mr. Finley also addressed an issue raised at the January MAC meeting regarding problems with synchronized signals at the south entrance of Borchard Road. He said the problem has been corrected and thanked residents for bringing it to his attention. He encouraged residents to continue to let him know if any problems arise in the future.

One resident was concerned about back-ups caused by the narrowed lane in front of the 76 Gas Station at the 101 Highway and Wendy Drive. **Mr. Finley** said the work should be completed in one week and lanes will be opened up again with a new sidewalk in front of the gas station.

c. Old Conejo Road Drainage Update

Mr. Finley reported that the berm has been completed. There has been a delay with the overlay at Ruth Drive and Wendy Drive, but the gutter across Ruth Drive will be completed by the summer.

d. Graffiti Removal Intervention Team Update

Edward Villa, Sr. reported there has not been any graffiti on bridges in the Casa Conejo area recently. He attended the countywide GRIT Summit and learned about measures other cities in Ventura County are taking to stop graffiti.

Residents reported graffiti by Borchard Park in a ravine, on the sidewalk at 656 Jenny Drive, on a post at the end of Michael Drive just before the baseball field, and on arrows on Ruth Drive across from Frankie Drive. **Mr. Villa** said the GRIT Team is mostly responsible for bridges and watershed areas, but he would report the graffiti to Kiwanis, and also hopes to get a group together in the future that can remove graffiti from private property.

11. Action Items

a. Subcommittee on “Welcome Home, Please Drive Safely” Signs

Dustin Woomer presented the design draft for the street signs. They will be 18 x 24 inches, painted metal in forest green and blue. The signs will be mounted on existing poles, such as street lights or stop signs, as residents enter neighborhoods in Casa Conejo. He also presented location options for the signs. **Supervisor Parks** said her office would pay for ten signs and will present cost estimates to the MAC. **Edward Villa, Sr.** offered to install them.

Residents made two suggestions to the design of the signs: (1) to add the word “Relax” before the “Welcome Home,” and (2) to change the forest green color to brown. A vote was taken of MAC members and community members on both suggestions. There was a unanimous vote to include the word “Relax” in the design; and a majority in favor of keeping the design colors forest green and blue. It was also suggested the “Please Drive Safely” phrase is reflective at night.

Richard Twomey, Jr. made a motion to accept the street sign design with the inclusion of the word “Relax” followed by ellipses. **Edward Villa, Sr.** made the second. The motion passed 5/0.

Nathan Borin also inquired about adding low walls with wording similar to the street signs on Wendy Drive and Borchard Parkway facing Wendy Drive traffic. He agreed to provide possible locations.

b. Sound Wall on Borchard Road

Dustin Woomer said he would like to see the MAC assist and support efforts by residents concerned about traffic noise. He said perhaps the city can share the cost. **Nathan Borin** suggested a vinyl wall would be less expensive than a block wall. He said there is also a need for a sound wall on the 101 freeway, as well as a “No Jake Brakes” sign on the southbound 101 Freeway below the top of the grade. **Supervisor Parks** said the Transportation Commission may have a list for sound walls and she can look into placement on that list.

Dustin Woomer made a motion to support the effort of residents with homes along the back side of Borchard Road to mitigate traffic noise through sound deadening solutions. **Richard Twomey, Jr.** made the second. The motion passed 5/0.

c. Casa Conejo Community Survey

Richard Gaz said long-time community members may have concerns and a survey could help understand what they are. **Supervisor Parks** suggested a subcommittee for putting questions together for the survey. She also said her office could help facilitate mailing the surveys to residents. It was suggested that this item be listed for discussion at the next MAC meeting.

12. Suggestions for future agenda items

Information Items

Wendy Bridge Widening Update

Graffiti Removal Intervention Team Update

“Welcome Home, Please Drive Safely” Sign Locations

Action Items

Election of MAC Chair and Vice Chair

Casa Conejo Community Survey

13. Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m. until May 15, 2013 at Walnut Elementary School