

CASA CONEJO MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
September 16, 2015

**The Casa Conejo MAC held a Meeting Wednesday, September 16, 2015,
6:00 p.m. at Walnut Elementary School, 581 Dena Drive, Newbury Park**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by **Chair Richard Twomey, Jr.** at 6:05 pm. MAC members **Shannon Prachyl, Janell Smith** and **Richard Gaz** were present. **Dustin Woomer** arrived at 6:10 pm. **Edward Villa, Sr.** and **Steven Wasco** were absent.

2. Flag Salute

Richard Twomey, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of the Minutes of March 18, 2015

Richard Gaz moved the approval of the minutes. **Janell Smith** seconded the motion and it passed 4-0.

4. Agenda Review

Richard Twomey, Jr. moved the approval of the agenda. **Janell Smith** seconded the motion and it passed 4-0.

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

Ventura County Sheriff Senior Deputy Michael Panek said crime property crimes in the Conejo Valley have increased and residents need to lock up doors and cars. **CHP Officer Greg Musgrove** could not attend the meeting, but sent a statement saying the CHP has had a presence at schools for the start of classes and will begin to increasing presence in the near future.

6. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks

Supervisor Parks was sad to announce the loss of Sergeant Robert "Steve" Arthur of the Ventura County Sheriff's Department who died in Zion National Park flash flood. She relayed follow-up information from the Transportation Department regarding a pedestrian count to evaluate whether changes will be required at crosswalks off Ruth Drive, red curbs on Southbound Wendy Drive approaching Gerald Drive, and concerns at the intersection of Wendy Drive and Bella Drive. Supervisor Parks said she would follow up on Wendy Zimmerman's question as to whether the County or City is responsible for Wendy/Bella intersection. She said her assistant Vanise Terry is following up with CalTrans to get a "No Jake Brakes" sign on the 101 Freeway at the Conejo Grade. She also reported that the Board of Supervisors chose to only partially accept the recent Grand Jury report on sidewalks. They would not accept the recommendation to regularly check the conditions of the sidewalks. Finally, she reported that concerns over a recent paving project will be addressed in the second phase of the pavement project that will provide a second layer and smoother finish.

7. Council Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Richard Twomey, Jr. thanked residents who attended the Board of Supervisors meeting to speak on behalf of Casa Conejo residents to speak out against requiring residents to pay for grinding repairs on sidewalks, after the Board had already approved not charging residents for these repairs. **Janell Smith** discussed her concerns about a huge flock of parrots flying around the Newbury Park area. She would like to have a speaker on this subject at a future MAC meeting.

8. Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Debby Ellis said she has a neighbor on Louis Drive that has torn out sections of concrete slabs in the sidewalk. She said for years they have been missing and she would like to have it fixed because it's a hazard to walk on the sidewalk. Supervisor Parks agreed to follow up.

Nathan Borin discussed the County's sidewalk policy and his opposition to the Board of Supervisors recent vote to not pay for grinding.

9. Advisory Matters

a. Brown Act Review with County Counsel Chief Assistant Michael Walker

County Counsel Chief Assistant Michael Walker presented on overview of the Brown Act.

b. Traffic Calming Plan Recommendation

Dustin Woomer said the Casa Conejo Community Survey cited speeding and traffic congestion as the two biggest issues in the community. He is supportive of the Transportation Department's traffic calming draft plan and said it is a good approach because the project is not permanent or costly, and the measures can be tested to see if they work in the community. The MAC can also revisit the measures to discuss the results. **Dustin Woomer** made a motion to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors in support of the traffic calming plan, and **Richard Twomey, Jr.** seconded the motion. It passed 5/0.

c. Issues Related to Northbound Bike Lane on Wendy Bridge Over the 101 Freeway

Wendy Zimmerman discussed her concerns about safety issues for bicyclists and pedestrians at the overpass at Wendy Drive and the 101 Freeway. She sent photos of the intersection to Kathy Lowry, City of Thousand Oaks Engineer Associate Bicycle Coordinator. She said the feedback she received is that the City is looking into redesigning the overpass but there is no timeline yet.

Richard Twomey, Jr. made a motion to send a letter to Kathy Lowry stating the MAC's desire for a safer design of the intersection and to receive further information on its progress. **Richard Gaz** seconded the motion and it passed 5/0.

d. Desirability of Adding a Center Lane on Old Conejo Road

The MAC and residents discussed the possibility of adding two lanes in each direction on Old Conejo Road to ease traffic congestion, or adding one middle lane to assist with left turns on to Jenny Drive. **Dustin Woomer** commented that cars often drive fast down Old Conejo Road and turn left out of the business parks and it is dangerous. One resident expressed her opposition to removing the peppertrees in order to widen the street because they are beautiful and provide a calming effect when you drive into the neighborhood. **Nathan Borin** said that the trees can be replanted and he would like to see MAC support for the widening. **Wendy Zimmerman** suggested waiting to see how the traffic calming measures work might affect Old Conejo Road. **Dustin Woomer** made a motion to write a letter to the City of Thousand Oaks to suggest doing a study of traffic conditions on Old Conejo Road, stating the MAC's concerns for congestions but also its sensitivity to the peppertrees. **Richard Gaz** seconded the motion and it passed 5/0.

10. Updates

a. Graffiti Removal Intervention Team

No graffiti reported.

11. Suggestions for Future Agenda Items

a. Water and drought issues

b. Speaker from Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology on parrots in the area.

12. Adjournment at 7:42 pm until Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at Walnut Elementary School