

CASA CONEJO MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
November 18, 2015

**The Casa Conejo MAC held a Meeting Wednesday, November 18, 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. Vice Chair **Edward Villa, Sr.** and MAC members **Richard Gaz, Dustin Woomer, in-coming member Wendy Zimmerman** and **out-going member Janell Smith** were present. **Steven Wasco** and **Shannon Prachyl** were absent.

2. Flag Salute

Richard Twomey, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Ceremonial Swearing-In of Wendy Zimmerman

Supervisor Parks gave the Oath of Office to **Wendy Zimmerman** and congratulations were extended.

4. Farewell to Janell Smith

On the occasion of her retirement from the MAC, Supervisor Parks provided a certificate of appreciation from the Board of Supervisors and an engraved award to out-going MAC member **Janell Smith** for her dedication to the community as one of the founding members of the Casa Conejo Municipal Advisory Council.

5. Approval of the Minutes of September 16, 2015

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

6. Agenda Review

Richard Twomey, Jr. moved to have agenda item 12a after agenda item 3, and agenda item 11 after agenda item 8. **Edward Villa, Sr.** seconded the motion and it passed 4-0.

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

CHP Officer Greg Musgrove announced that he has been focusing enforcement on Jenny Street, and cars parking along the red curb to pick-up and drop-off children at Walnut Elementary School. He also let the MAC know that the radar trailer will be used for a federal grant program in the area and will not be available as before for specific requests. **Senior Deputy John Lucey** reported thefts from mailboxes just outside the Casa Conejo area and warned residents not to put outgoing checks or other valuable letters in their mailboxes. He also reported some residential domestic issues on Dorena and Theresa Streets that have recently been resolved. He responded to concerns regarding FedEx and UPS parcels left at doorsteps. In response to Janell Smith's question regarding community relations with law enforcement in light of national news, he said he has not seen a noticeable change.

8. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks

Supervisor Parks told the MAC that the Tax Collector will have a satellite office at her office on Lynn Road and Hillcrest Drive for residents to pay their property taxes. She also said she'll look at having the Board of Supervisors meet in Casa Conejo this year. She offered follow-up on requests from the last MAC meeting noting the request for a No Jake Brakes sign would not be considered by Caltrans because they say it is a safety feature for trucks to use the brakes, and noted that County Transportation staff informed her the City of Thousand Oaks is responsible for the intersection of Bella Drive and Wendy Drive, and that the missing sidewalk on Louis Drive would be replaced. Finally, she reported that she brought a list of streets where speeding was identified as a concern in the 2014 Casa Conejo survey. She said she brought the list to show why three streets, Jenny Drive, Lesser Drive and

Theresa Drive are proposed for traffic calming measures. She answered questions about sidewalks and the proposed traffic calming measures, explaining the history of the project and assurances she has received that ADA vans will still be able to load and unload at the red curb, as well as the proven effectiveness of the traffic calming measures to reduce speeds. Resident **David Bryarly** on Jenny Drive expressed concern about the poor quality of the communication of the door hanger and expressed public safety concerns with the proposed design. He asked that a speed study be done before and after to determine effectiveness. **Supervisors Parks** said she would ask County Transportation to do the speed studies. **William Hayes** asked if the County can put in writing that if the traffic calming isn't effective that it will be removed. **Supervisor Parks** agreed to ask for that too. She completed her comments announcing a future meeting of the MAC will focus on the County's General Plan Update, the County is offering a traffic ticket amnesty program, and she has brought information about El Niño preparedness. **Nathan Borin** asked for information about school routes on Ruth Drive and Supervisor Parks responded that this was reported back at the last meeting and she will send it to him.

9. Council Comments on Items not on the Agenda

There were none.

10. Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Barry Gabrielson said he filed a federal ADA lawsuit and said the Department of Justice toured sidewalks in Casa Conejo with him and was "appalled" at the condition of sidewalks, including asphalt ramping and cracks. He said they will be releasing a report in the next few weeks. He said County Counsel said responding to his 15 questions was attorney-counsel privileged and asked why that was.

David Bryarly said he spoke with County Transportation employee Richard Herrera and expressed his concern for safety and effectiveness, and with small children having to walk alone from a car parked a distance away because of a red curb in front of someone's house. He also expressed concern that the notice was not adequate. **Supervisor Parks** agreed and said the project was put on hold because of her concern that County Transportation needs to do a better job communicating. **Edward Villa, Jr.** said he agrees the property owner needs adequate notice, not just a door hanger the night before. She also reiterated that she will ask for a pre and post measure speed study, as requested, and a written agreement by Transportation that if it isn't effective that it will be removed.

Terry Heninger expressed concern that cars will be directed into areas where there is flooding when it rains, and also expressed concern about loading and unloading passengers with disabilities at a red curb. Supervisor Parks stated that the Transportation Department spoke with the ADA service and they are allowed to load and unload at the red curb. Supervisor Parks also said that speed humps and stop signs were considered. **Officer Musgrove** noted that he has seen that traffic calming measures are effective.

Janell Smith pointed out that this item has been discussed many times and the meetings have been noticed in the papers and on yellow signs in the neighborhood.

Eugene Haulica on behalf of **Heather Swarens** expressed concern that the traffic calming measure safety assumptions are questionable and wondered if they are from a traffic engineering study. **Supervisor Parks** said they are the result of a traffic engineering study.

11. Advisory Matters

- a. **Proposed Design Changes to the Wendy Bridge/101 Freeway Crossing with Kathy Lowry, City of Thousand Oaks Engineer Associate, Bicycle Coordinator**

Kathy Lowry, City of Thousand Oaks Engineer Associate and Bicycle Coordinator, provided a brief overview of the planning and construction of the Wendy Bridge Overpass since 2007 to present. She discussed changes to the existing markings, which include adding "sharrows" across the intersection from Camino Dos Rios southbound and southbound over the bridge, removing the bike lane markings on Camino Dos Rios southbound to the Academy, adding "sharrows" northbound on Wendy just before the intersection of the northbound ramps, and adding additional bike lane markings across the bridge northbound. She also said a traffic signal will be added for pedestrians and cyclists using the crosswalk from the northwest corner to the "island" (both directions), which will stop southbound right on to Old Conejo Road when pedestrians activate the pedestrian button. **Nathan Borin** asked about whether Old Conejo Road would be widened and Ms. Lowry stated they are not considering widening it, rather they are looking at the possibility of putting a sidewalk along the north side for pedestrians.

12. Updates

a. Wild Parrots in Casa Conejo

Supervisor Parks relayed information received from the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology about wild parrots living in the Newbury Park area. They are popularly known as the "Nanday Conure", the Nanday Parakeet or Black-hooded Parakeet, an exotic parrot species that has naturalized in southern California. Originally from South America, the parakeets now live year-round in residential areas and adjacent sycamore-dominated canyon bottoms in coastal Los Angeles and Orange counties, and in the San Gabriel Valley. Since the Santa Monica Mountains Spring Fire of 2013 the parakeets have been observed more commonly in Newbury Park and even eastern Camarillo, most likely because the sycamore trees and other food sources they depended on were severely burned. While known for being highly vocal, they do not appear to be causing harm to native wildlife, in part because they can get their food from introduced exotic trees and other plants that have replaced native vegetation all over California. Nanday Parakeets can live more than 20 years, and they form very close relationships with their mates and their young. During the winter you can see them in very large and colorful flocks. For more information, contact the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology at 805-388-9944 or online www.wfvz.org.

b. Graffiti Removal Intervention Team

Edward Villa, Jr. said there was some graffiti found on the bridge at Jenny Drive in the flood control channel and on the wall behind Ben Court.

13. Suggestions for Future Agenda Items

- a. Follow-up from the Thousand Oaks Transit Master Plan meeting on December 4, 2015
- b. Flood Control and El Niño in January
- c. Cal Am on May agenda to get status on water conservation
- d. So Cal Gas metering program
- e. Status of signal on Gerald Drive and Wendy Drive

14. Adjournment at 7:55 pm until Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at Walnut Elementary School