

CASA CONEJO MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
March 15, 2017

**The Casa Conejo MAC held a Meeting Wednesday, March 15, 2017,
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 Gaz** at 6:00 pm. Vice Chair **Wendy Zimmerman** and MAC members **Edward Villa, Sr., Dustin Woomer, R. Scott Horn**, and alternate member **Roger Smith** were present.

2. Flag Salute

Chair Richard Gaz led the salute to the flag.

3. Swearing-in of R. Scott Horn and Roger Smith

The Board of Supervisors approved the appointments of MAC members **R. Scott Horn** and **Roger Smith** on March 14, 2017, and **Supervisor Parks** administered the Oath of Office.

4. Approval of the Minutes of January 18, 2017

Ed Villa, Sr. moved to approve the minutes from January 18, 2017 with no changes and **Dustin Woomer** seconded the motion. The motion passed 5/0.

5. Agenda Review

No changes were made to the agenda.

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

CHP Officer Gregg Musgrove provided statistics on accidents in the Casa Conejo vicinity for the last three years. In 2014 there were nine accidents, in 2015 twenty-one accidents, and in 2016 twelve accidents reported. He said there were no trends in accidents and it is not getting worse. **Ed Villa, Sr.** thanked Officer Musgrove for resolving concerns about a speeder near Borchard Park.

Ventura County Deputy Jennifer Bowie said she was filling in for the new Beat Coordinator Deputy Dave Brantley. She reported there was only one call for service in the last month, and asked residents to remain vigilant in locking doors and reporting suspicious activity.

7. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks

Supervisor Linda Parks reported that the letter from the MAC to the Newbury Park Branch Post office was sent but there has been no reply yet. **Vanise Terry**, aide to Supervisor Parks, said she will follow up. Supervisor Parks said the Board of Supervisors will review an item on March 21st regarding liens on homes that have unpaid sidewalk bills. She said there are over 70 properties on the list and that residents wanting a payment plan must make a request to the Board of Supervisors, and said she will vote against putting liens on properties. **R. Scott Horn** asked how many trees were cut down, and Vanise Terry said she would follow up. Supervisor Parks said that the Board passed an urgency ordinance allowing second dwelling units up to 1,200 square feet on properties of 9,000 square feet or more until a new ordinance can be passed to address new, more lenient, state requirements. Following up on a resident's question about senior discounts for trash removal, she said E.J. Harrison has discounts available and to call 805-647-1414 or 1-800-41-TRASH for more information. She announced the next Community Beautification Event in Casa Conejo/Newbury Park area would be on April 8, 2017 at Newbury Park High School, and on that day residents are also encouraged to clean up the their neighborhoods. Following up on a request for information from Council member Wendy Zimmerman, Supervisor Parks said the Watershed Protection District reported the recent rains produced about two feet of water in the Arroyo Conejo South Branch. Water collected in the adjacent field by Highway 101 was only local surface runoff, not from overtopping the channel. On behalf of the Walnut Elementary School Principal, Supervisor Parks asked residents to be vigilant in looking for the

person who has been cutting the padlock on the school's fences, and in one incident replacing it with a separate, private lock. This is extremely dangerous for the children at the school and could result in students either wandering off campus if the lock is removed, or being locked in during a crisis if the lock is replaced. A resident in the audience indicated he believed he knew the resident who changed the lock. Finally, Supervisor Parks announced that applications are available for a 12-week Citizen's Academy through the Thousand Oaks Police Department. The Academy provides information on police services and is one of the prerequisites to become a Volunteer in Policing.

8. Council Comments on Items not on the Agenda

New MAC member **R. Scott Horn** introduced himself to the MAC and residents and gave his personal and professional back ground. He also suggested a new format for the room for future meetings that would include circular seating so everyone can see and hear each other.

New alternate MAC member **Roger Smith** also introduced himself and gave his background.

9. Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Catherine Hogue said she is still receiving poor mail delivery service on Devia Drive. She said the mail carrier does not insert the mail into the slot all the way so her mail is exposed leaving her open to mail and identity theft. She said residents should continue to alert the branch supervisor about grievances and concerns. **R. Scott Horn** asked if the MAC has tools to compel the post office to attend a MAC meeting. **Supervisor Parks** said she cannot compel them, but has invited them on two separate occasions to attend. **Wendy Zimmerman** suggested going through the local congress member since the post office is a federal office.

10. Updates

a. City of Thousand Oaks Response to California American Water's District Consolidation Request and Water Rate Increase with Jay Spurgin, Thousand Oaks Public Works Director, and Felicia Liberman, Thousand Oaks Assistant City Attorney

Jay Spurgin presented information about California American Water's (Cal-Am) request to consolidate districts and raise water rates. He presented information on the water rate process and purveyor services that serve Thousand Oaks and its surrounding communities. He said the City must comply with Prop 218 and rates must be approved by the City Council, but private companies are not subject to Prop 218 and rate changes are approved by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Cal-Am's request for consolidation of rates would increase rates 32 percent cumulatively over 3 years, but non-consolidation of rates would only increase by 15 percent. Mr. Spurgin provided water cost and rate adjustment comparisons, and discussed the City's "party status" role as it prepares to oppose Cal-Am's request to the CPUC. The City will submit testimony during the CPUC hearing process. A resident asked if the Office of Ratepayer Advocates would be helpful, and Mr. Spurgin said input from consumers is always helpful as recommendations are based on data including consumer information.

Wendy Zimmerman asked what the City believes should be a reasonable rate increase, and Mr. Spurgin responded that the Office of Ratepayer Advocates provided an analysis on this and that the City Council approved a two-year increase at two percent. **Roger Smith** asked if Calleguas Municipal Water District is tapping into the Casa Conejo aquifer, and Mr. Spurgin said no, noting there is a main line in the area to bring their wholesale water, and that the City has done a groundwater study and plans to pursue use of the aquifer in the future. **Brian Barreto** and **Rick Saldivar**, representatives from Cal-Am, were in attendance to answer questions. **R. Scott Horn** asked how big the areas are that would be included in the consolidations, what percentage of that is the Thousand Oaks area, and if they thought Cal-Am's rate increase would influence other purveyors to also increase rates. Mr. Barreto responded that he would provide a break-down of the districts by percentage, and that Cal-Am is at the beginning of the rate case application, which is usually an 18-month long process, and the proposal will change over time with input. He said the components of the application would include consideration of infrastructure investment, decline in sales, and consolidated rates, which would help spread the cost of infrastructure across a larger district so there wouldn't be a huge rate shock when repairs are needed.

A resident commented that residents in Ventura County shouldn't have to pay for infrastructure investments in Los Angeles County. **Supervisor Parks** thanked all the speakers for attending the meeting, and said the Board of Supervisors will be giving this issue attention and hopes the County can assist the City in opposition.

b. Update from the City of Thousand Oaks on Old Conejo Road

Jay Spurgin reported there have been over 20 collisions in the last 5 years on Old Conejo Road, and the City is currently reviewing their capital improvement program in the budget with street related projects that include Old Conejo Road. He said traditional sources of funding are not high so the City will have to apply for federal and state grants. The amount of pavement on Old Conejo Road is currently not sufficient to add a turn lane so if one were to be added, it would have to be widened.

Dustin Woomer said there isn't a sidewalk by "Bunny Hill" between Jenny Drive and Peppertree Park, and that perhaps there could be a connection for pedestrians added there. Mr. Spurgin said he would include that as well. **Nathan Borin** asked if there was a design plan yet, and Mr. Spurgin said if there were to be a design change, the change would first need a CEQA review and a public review process to assess impacts.

Supervisor Parks presented Mr. Spurgin with a certificate of appreciation signed by the MAC members thanking the Thousand Oaks Public Works Department for the road improvements on Old Conejo Road that divert storm water run-off and protect the properties in Casa Conejo.

c. Graffiti Removal Intervention Team

No graffiti to report.

11. Advisory Matters

a. Approval of MAC Correspondence to the Board of Supervisors Regarding California American Water's District Consolidation Request and Water Rate Increase

The MAC discussed draft correspondence to the Board of Supervisors asking for support in opposing Cal-Am's district consolidation request and rate increase. **Ed Villa, Sr.** moved to approve the correspondence with the addition of sending a copy of the letter to the City of Thousand Oaks. **Wendy Zimmerman** seconded the motion and it passed 5/0.

12. Suggestions for Future Agenda Items

- a. Update on Newbury Park Post Office Mail Delivery Service
- b. Frontier Communications Customer Service

13. Adjournment at 7:38 pm until Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at Walnut Elementary School.