

CASA CONEJO MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
July 19, 2017

**The Casa Conejo MAC held a Meeting Wednesday, July 19, 2017,
6:00 p.m. at Borchard Community Center, 190 Reino Road, Newbury Park**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by **Chair Richard Gaz** at 6:02 pm. Vice Chair **Wendy Zimmerman**, MAC member **Edward Villa, Sr.** and alternate member **Roger Smith** were present. **Dustin Woomer** and **R. Scott Horn** were absent.

2. Flag Salute

Chair Richard Gaz led the salute to the flag.

3. Approval of the Minutes of March 15, 2017

Ed Villa, Sr. moved to approve the minutes from March 15, 2017 with no changes and **Wendy Zimmerman** seconded the motion. The motion passed 4/0.

4. Agenda Review

Ed Villa, Sr. motioned to move the Update presentations to follow Item 5. **Roger Smith** seconded the motion and it passed 4/0.

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

Captain Jeff Miller, Ventura County Sheriff's Office, reported that the biggest issue in the area is people leaving their cars unlocked. He said an increase in stolen vehicles is sometimes due to people leaving keys or key fobs in the car. He urged residents to be careful and lock cars. He said mail theft has been a problem in the greater Thousand Oaks area, and there was one vandalism incident at Madrona Elementary School where the chain link fence was cut. He mentioned recently reported telephone scams, including false claims of kidnapping to get money, and gift card scams. He warned residents to not give any money over the phone and to call the scam hotline (805) 371-8327. He reported that the Sheriff's Office conducted a DUI Check point in high traffic areas on Lynn Road in June and July. They averaged about 400-500 cars in a 6 hour period, and in June gave out several citations for driving without a driver's license. In June no DUIs were issued and July's results are not available yet. Finally, Captain Miller mentioned the two recent crimes at trail heads in the Thousand Oaks area where hikers were robbed. He said there is now an increased presence of law enforcement but also urged people to hike in pairs and be aware.

A resident said she received harassing calls after she hung up on a robo caller. Captain Miller said repeated calls could be a misdemeanor and to report them.

Resident **Janell Smith** mentioned the library on Borchard Road now has a tamper-proof mail drop box, and Captain Miller suggested that raising the flag on mail boxes is not as safe as it used to be. He said mail boxes are often targeted by thieves, in particular community mail boxes, and to make sure the locks are secure. He recommended to report broken locks to the post office and/or Sheriff's Office.

MAC member **Wendy Zimmerman** asked if there was an update on the incident at Newbury Park High School where the speaker box was broken into and anti-Semitic messages were broadcast. Captain Miller said the criminal investigation is ongoing but he did not have any new details. He said there has been communication with the school to secure the speaker box.

6. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks
Supervisor Linda Parks

Supervisor Parks reported that the MAC letter regarding mail delivery service has been forwarded to Congressmember Julia Brownley's office and any further concerns or complaints about mail service can be sent to her office via staff member Sandra Bravo. She mentioned a project she's working on to

have a drought tolerant and native plant non-profit nursery that would employ people with mental illness and include horticulture therapy. She discussed the results of the Community Beautification Event on April 8, 2017. Supervisor Parks also announced two upcoming events, the Junior Firefighter Academy for students 13-16 years in July and August, and a community planning forum for improving mental health services on July 26th at the Borchard Community Center from 1-3 pm. Supervisor Parks said Watershed Protection District Mosquito Abatement responded to recent complaints of an increase of mosquitos in the area. Mosquito Abatement treats the drains behind Cathy Drive houses either every 10 days, weekly, or bi-weekly depending on the conditions, and said the increase in complaints could be caused by one or a combination of the following: hot conditions, more people being out later in the evening, or a new breeding spot not yet located. Mosquito Abatement will continue to monitor the area. Finally, Supervisor Parks said the Board of Supervisors reviewed the issue of sidewalk grinding but did not opt to pay for the cost of grinding.

7. Council Comments on Items not on the Agenda

R. Scott Horn provided written comments in his absence regarding mail delivery service in Casa Conejo reporting he understood from two mail carriers in the Casa Conejo area that at least one route, which includes his street, would be up for bid for a permanent mail carrier and would no longer be a training route.

Richard Gaz said he has noticed improvements with the street pavement and sidewalks and that Casa Conejo is looking better.

Ed Villa, Sr. reported that the GRIT cleaned graffiti from the bridge on Jenny Drive. This was the first graffiti in six months. The GRIT moves very quickly to remove graffiti so that may be a deterrent because there is not as much in Casa Conejo anymore. **Captain Miller** asked that any graffiti, even on private property, be photographed before removal and sent to him either directly or via Supervisor Parks' office. Mr. Villa also commented that the crime rate in Casa Conejo is almost non-existent thanks to law enforcement presence in the area and thanked Captain Miller. Captain Miller encouraged residents to continue with community action and calling the Sheriff's office if they see anything suspicious. The dispatchers will prioritize calls so it is always good to call.

8. Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

There were no public comments.

9. Updates

a. Presentation by the County of Ventura Planning Division on a proposed Vision and set of Guiding Principles for the County's General Plan Update

Susan Curtis, Senior County Planner, led the public through an overview of the proposed vision and guiding principles for the General Plan Update. She presented the input collected throughout the county and offered the draft vision statement and guiding principles document. Further comments can be made through an online questionnaire at www.vc2040.org. MAC member **Wendy Zimmerman** provided written comments on the draft documents, and MAC member **Ed Villa Sr.** commented that he loves open space but he's noticing that some councils and businesses are wanting to take away open space for industrial, commercial and housing purposes.

b. Update from Southern California Edison on the Street Pole Replacement Project

Rudy Gonzales, Public Affairs Special for Southern California Edison, discussed the recent street pole replacement project in Casa Conejo that replaced poles installed as far back as the 1960s. He explained that the program was not responsible for updating light bulbs and they were replaced like-for-like. He said there are other programs in the works that would replace the bulbs with LED lights and SCE is currently working with County staff to implement these programs in the county's unincorporated areas. Resident **Barry Gabrielson** asked about cost to residents, and Mr. Gonzales said there is no "additional" cost to residents because the cost for upgrading infrastructure is already included in the fees for maintenance and services. MAC member **Ed Villa Sr.** asked about the Casa Conejo welcome

signs that were on the old poles but are now missing with the new poles. Mr. Gonzales said he would look into finding them and work with the County to get an agreement to hang the signs on the new SCE poles.

c. Presentation by Frontier Communications Regarding Cable Service

Jesus Torres, Director of External Affairs for Frontier Communications, provided an update on Frontier's transition in the area that began April 2016. He said the company is operating at an optimal rate now with approximately 10,000 customers in the Newbury Park, Casa Conejo and Thousand Oaks area. A few residents commented that the biggest issue is Frontier's customer service center. Mr. Torres stated that the Frontier workforce is now 100 percent American and all call centers are on shore. However, with that switch there were many new employees added that needed training, but service will get better from now on.

10. Advisory Matters

There were no Advisory Matters

11. Future Agenda Items

a. Representatives from local elected offices

12. Adjournment at 7:31 pm until Wednesday, September 20, 2017 at Walnut Elementary School.