

CASA CONEJO MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
September 20, 2017

**The Casa Conejo MAC held a Meeting Wednesday, September 20, 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 6:03 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. State Update from California State Senator Henry Stern, District 27

California State Senator Henry Stern discussed his goals in the California Senate, including protecting the environment and land in Ventura County, reinvesting in public education, and maintaining infrastructure. He said the State is in good shape fiscally and the legislature is building up strong reserves. California was able to get through the water crisis but the legislature will face big decisions in the future regarding water use. Senator Stern said as Chair of the Election Committee he is committed to bringing youth civics engagement programs to encourage the participation of younger generations. He is also committed to ensuring clean money in politics with an initiative in the Senate that provides an ability to know who top donors are on political advertisements and mailers. He is also working on curtailing human trafficking of youth with new technology that tracks information, provides textable services, and maintains databases. Residents asked Senator Stern questions regarding communication with the public, ICE, earthquake preparedness, and funding for a wildlife corridor.

4. Approval of the Minutes of July 19, 2017

Wendy Zimmerman moved to approve the minutes from July 19, 2017 with no changes and **Ed Villa, Sr.** 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)

Ventura County Sheriff Captain Jeff Miller said theft from vehicles remains a problem in the greater Newbury Park area and that two girls were recently arrested on Cathy Drive for breaking into a car. He said hiking trail heads are also common targets for crimes of opportunity and to make sure to hide valuables in trunks so they're out of sight. He reported on some residential burglaries and mail theft in the area, and reminded residents to call the Sheriff's office if they see anything suspicious, particularly as the holidays approach and packages are being left at front doors. He suggested making arrangements with neighbors for delivered packages when the home is unoccupied, and mentioned one of the benefits of implementing a VIP program is that they can do house checks while people are away on vacation. Residents can call 805-654-9511 to report suspicious activity and non-emergencies.

7. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks

Supervisor Linda Parks announced the opening of the Dreamcatcher Playground that was built by the Rotary Club of Thousand Oaks Sunrise. It is designed for children with special needs at Old Meadows Park in Thousand Oaks, and she stated the County also contributed to its development. Supervisor Parks said her staff is still working with Southern California Edison to replace the missing welcome signs and traffic safety signs that went missing after their recent pole replacement project. She reported that the State recently signed legislation that would reduce barriers to constructing accessory dwelling

units (ADUs) or “granny flats.” The Board of Supervisors is looking at drafting policy options and developing new standards and requirements for ADUs. She said she has asked Planning staff to attend an upcoming MAC meeting to provide more information to residents and receive community input on these proposed changes. Supervisor Parks provided a recap on behalf of the Conejo Recreation and Park District (CRPD) on the mistaken top dressing used on the Borchard Park softball and soccer fields that created an unpleasant odor. She reported that CRPD has made changes to prevent another incident. Lastly, Supervisor Parks announced the upcoming Senior Summit on October 21st at CSU Channel Islands that will focus on seniors and technology, and urged residents to register to attend.

8. Council Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Ed Villa, Sr. said the mail service in Casa Conejo has improved now that Congresswoman Brownley was able to ensure the area has permanent mail carriers. **Scott Horn** said Casa Conejo is no longer a training route. **Wendy Zimmerman** mentioned a service through the U.S. Post Office call “What’s in My Mailbox” that offers a digital preview of mail that will be arriving. Residents can sign up for it at usps.com

9. Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Roy Hogue discussed his concern about the Calexit initiative.

Catherine Hogue mentioned concerns about illegal fireworks being set off in the creek between Cathy Drive and Dena Drive and the channel behind Michael Drive. **Captain Miller** said during the Fourth of July the highest calls for service the Sheriff’s Office get is for fireworks. He said community education is a good plan going forward.

10. Updates

a. Graffiti Removal Intervention Team

Ed Villa, Sr. reported that the last graffiti that was removed was on the Jenny Bridge at the start of the school year. If residents see any graffiti, please report it to the office of Supervisor Parks.

11. Suggestions for Future Agenda Items

- a. Ventura County’s Accessory Dwelling Unit Regulations in the Coastal and Non-Coastal Zones
- b. Cal Am Water Rate Update
- c. Earthquake Preparedness

12. Adjournment at 7:23 pm until Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at Walnut Elementary School.