

CASA CONEJO MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
Wednesday, November 17, 2021

**The Casa Conejo MAC held a Meeting on Wednesday, November 17, 2021
at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom and Teleconference.**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by **Scott Horn** at 6:00 pm. MAC members **Edward Villa, Sr., Richard Gaz,** and **Wendy Zimmerman** were present. **Cecily Rock** was absent.

2. Flag Salute

Scott Horn led the flag salute.

3. Approval of Minutes from September 15, 2021 and special meeting on November 10, 2021

Ed Villa, Sr. moved to approve the minutes from September 15, 2021 as submitted. **Richard Gaz** seconded the motion, it passed 4/0. **Richard Gaz** moved to approve the minutes from the special meeting on November 10, 2021 as submitted. **Wendy Zimmerman** seconded the motion, it passed 4/0.

4. Agenda Review

Chair Horn moved Item 6 to be heard before Item 5. He also requested that future agendas title the subcommittee as "Borchard Wetlands Ad Hoc Subcommittee."

6. Welcome of Newbury Park High School Student Representative Ashley Neier

MAC Chair Scott Horn welcomed **Ashley Neier** to the MAC. Miss Neier introduced herself and provided updates from Newbury Park High School, including the recent successful homecoming, Turkey Toss, theater program, and award to the sophomore class for having the most school spirit.

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

CHP Commander Heather Hoglund reported on upcoming construction at the scale locations on the SR 101 and SR 118 beginning early to mid-next year. On the 101 freeway, construction will start with the south-bound side, which should take about a month or two, and then continue on the north-bound side, which could take upwards of 5 or 6 months to complete. CHP will work to accommodate any interference as the scales will be closed during construction, but it should not affect traffic.

CHP Officer Ryan Ayers said CHP moved the radar trailer to Wendy Drive at Gerald Drive to slow vehicles coming onto Wendy Drive since there are many schools, bicycle and foot traffic in the area. It does not track information and will likely stay for about a week or so since it is shared throughout the county. He said CHP has handled several recent complaints in the area and welcome community feedback. He announced CHP will have maximum enforcement periods for the holidays with many officers focusing on DUI and distracted driving enforcement. CHP is encouraging patience while driving and leaving early to reduce major crashes. He also reported an uptick in catalytic converter thefts and package thefts.

Resident **Roseanne Cooley** asked about rules for parking in bike lanes, particularly on Sundays by the church in Kimber Drive. **Officer Ayers** said some bike lanes with two separate lanes for parking and cycling can have parking enforcement, while areas with just a bike line are harder to enforce because a bicycle is considered a motor vehicle that can ride in a bike lane as well as the roadway, so cars are able to park in the lane. He said he would look into having more patrol in that area and talk to the church as well. **Wendy Zimmerman** said since Kimber is in the City's boundaries and Kathy Naoum is the City's bicycle coordinator that she can be contacted for further information. She also thanked the officers for the radar trailer on Wendy Drive.

Ventura County Sheriff Deputy Qui Vo introduced himself to the MAC and reported on the uptick in catalytic converter thefts in the area and mentioned the Etch-and-Catch program as well as plates that can be installed to protect the converter. He encouraged residents to lock vehicles and to not leave valuables in them. He said crews that come up from LA that are responsible for many of the burglaries in the area. **Ed Villa, Sr.** said the cul de sac off Gerald Drive by the park had been a drug area in the past but with added patrolling at night by the Sheriff's Office it has gotten much better, and he expressed his thanks. **Scott Horn** asked if there could be updates provided by the Fire Department at future meetings. **Supervisor Parks** said it is possible and can be scheduled for specific topics.

7. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks

Supervisor Linda Parks welcomed Ashley Neier to the MAC and thanked her for her participation and being a liaison with the local school. She said the Ventura County Fire Department is teaming up with the community to hold a Spark of Love Toy Drive and more information is at www.vcfd.org. Toys can also be dropped off at the Thousand Oaks Police Department on Olsen Road. She said she spoke at the Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial that recognized four firefighters who died as a result of their service. She mentioned her meetings on Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) and Clean Power Alliance, and approval by the Board of Supervisors to continue meeting online for another 30 days per Public Health Director Dr. Levin's recommendation due to COVID. She said wearing masks indoors is still recommended and everyone is encouraged to get their vaccination and booster shots.

8. Council Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Wendy Zimmerman said she would like to have a formal discussion at a later meeting regarding the proposed fast-food drive-thru by Exer in the Dollar Tree shopping center where it is already chaotic going in and out. She said the MAC could possibly send a letter to the developer and City stating opposition if the MAC agrees.

9. Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda

Shawn Moradian commented on a Facebook post from Monday, November 15th regarding work done in the arroyo channel by a crew that is not affiliated with his company.

10. Advisory Items

a. City of Thousand Oaks Wastewater Rates for Unincorporated Areas

Nader Heydari, City of Thousand Oaks Deputy Public Works Director, presented information on wastewater rates. **Wendy Zimmerman** pointed out that unincorporated areas are being charged more than residents in the City limits and feels that is not supported by federal and state law, and they should not see any increases at all. **Mr. Heydari** said he would report back to the MAC on reasons for rate differences. **Scott Horn** asked about the inclusion of wastewater bill with the property tax bill, which **Mr. Heydari** confirmed and said would be a fixed charge and that the new process should prove to be more efficient and save approximately \$70,000. He said they currently the City has the second lowest rates in the county, but the increases are required for necessary capital improvements, upgrades, and maintenance. Resident **Anna Gaz** asked about tax deductions on the property tax bill and said that adding a lump sum in the property tax bill could be a bigger hardship than a smaller monthly charge. **Mr. Heydari** said with wastewater rates on the property tax bill, residents may be able to claim some deductions.

b. Update to Casa Conejo Milestones

Supervisor Parks said the provided milestone list originated from previous Casa Conejo Municipal Advisory Councils and is updated every few years. She suggested the MAC could review the list and come back at a later meeting to update it. **Wendy Zimmerman** would like to order the list chronologically as a timeline, add previous members, and include when the MAC was formed. The MAC will discuss adding more milestones at the next meeting.

11. Information Items

a. Update on Ventura County Redistricting

Supervisor Parks reported that the Board of Supervisors approved support for the final redistricting map for Ventura County and the final vote will be in December. She said the voices of her Municipal Advisory Councils helped allow District 2 to stay fairly intact, including keeping all of the Conejo Valley in District 2 as the Casa Conejo MAC requested, and for all MAC boundaries to stay intact and were not split between supervisor districts. She said she did lose Bell Canyon to District 4 but also gained eastern portions of Camarillo and parts of Camarillo Heights. She said Camarillo was the fastest growing district while hers usually has the slowest in growth. Additionally, the Board's goal was to create two majority minority districts, so Camarillo was split. She said that while she now has the largest district in population, she believes it will change in years to come. **Wendy Zimmerman** asked about the continuation of MACs with a new Supervisor. **Supervisor Parks** said MACs are approved by

the Board of Supervisors and would have to be dissolved by the Board as well. Supervisor Parks also went over changes in the map countywide.

b. MAC Social Media Protocols

Supervisor Parks discussed her concerns about using social media, including Brown Act requirements for social media, commenting online, potentially showing bias on issues coming before the MAC, politicking, issues of representing the MAC/Board of Supervisors. She said no other committees, boards, or councils through the County have their own social media accounts. She would prefer using her website's community webpages to post information to the community. **Wendy Zimmerman** asked about using NextDoor.com and commenting on posts regarding the neighborhood. **Supervisor Parks** said likely County Counsel would suggest no commenting at all, particularly on each other's posts or issues coming to the MAC. **Supervisor Parks** said that if a MAC member is commenting, it should be specified that they are posting as an individual and not as a representative of the MAC. **Scott Horn** and **Wendy Zimmerman** expressed appreciation for the use of her website as a means of getting information out to the community.

c. Report from the Ad Hoc Borchard Wetlands Property Subcommittee

Scott Horn provided a photograph of the Borchard wetland viewed from Angel Vista Peak in 2017 and reported on the South Branch Arroyo Conejo Hydrology Summary report provided by Sergio Vargas, Deputy Director of the Watershed Protection District (WPD). He said it was explained to him that the County's flowage easement on the Borchard property has been used each time the property has flooded and is not limited to only a 100-year flood storm event. Rather it accommodates flood flows at much lower frequencies than just a 100-year event. Also, the lower north bank elevation allows floods to spill into the flowage easement as intended. He also shared a map of the Newbury Park Wetlands from June 2018 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory. Lastly, he reported that homeowners by the Borchard property are complaining about scraping on the land causing dust and poor air quality. He said he's also hoping to come across any native species still on the land.

Shawn Moradian, Borchard property owner, questioned the naming of the subcommittee, commented on the relevance of the historical data presented, and said the City of the Thousand Oaks floodplain manager said they would not allow development on the property unless he can demonstrate there would be no impact to the floodplains. He also disputed the information provided by Mr. Vargas for the record, threatened lawsuits against MAC members, and said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service map was not accurate.

d. Graffiti Removal Intervention Team Update

Ed Villa, Sr. reported that the team has been fairly idle because there has been very little graffiti on the bridges. He announced they're looking for new members to join the team and to contact Supervisor Parks' office for more information

12. Correspondence

Wendy Zimmerman asked for follow up on correspondence sent to VCTC regarding the 101 Freeway expansion project. **Scott Horn** said the Executive Director left and it might be in a holding pattern.

Supervisor Parks said some groups are looking into a transportation tax, but the VCTC did not endorse it, and there should be a new Executive Director of VCTC appointed in January.

13. Future Agenda Items

- a. Update on the Dollar Tree Center Drive-Thru Proposal
- b. Casa Conejo MAC Milestones
- c. Update on Federal funding to Ventura County from Infrastructure Bill
- d. NextDoor.com, Postings

14. Adjournment at 8:02 pm to Wednesday, January 19, 2022.