



MEMBERS OF THE BOARD  
Brian Trushinski, Chair  
Michelle Santucci, Vice Chair  
J.L. Diaz  
Jane Nye  
Seema Chandra

# **REGULAR MEETING Agenda Draft Minutes**

**September 26, 2024  
7:00 PM**

**Municipal Advisory Council  
Oak Park, California**

**Oak Park High School  
Room G-9  
899 North Kanan Road  
Oak Park, CA 91377**

**WEB ACCESS**

At: [ventura.org/oakparkmac](https://ventura.org/oakparkmac)

MAC Calendar, Agenda, and Minutes

Welcome to the meeting of the Oak Park Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) an advisory council for the unincorporated area of Oak Park to Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorell.

## **LEGAL NOTICES**

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Public comment is the opportunity for members of the public to participate in meetings by addressing the Oak Park Municipal Advisory Council in connection with one or more agenda or non-agenda items. Public comments by a member of the public at a single meeting are limited to a cumulative total of five minutes at such meeting unless the time allotment is increased or decreased by the Chair depending on the number of speakers. The public comment period during the opening part of the meeting to address non-agenda items is limited to 30 minutes total for all speakers; this 30-minute limit does not apply to items on the agenda.

To maintain a public meeting environment conducive and welcoming to receiving public comments from all members of the public, the audience is discouraged from engaging in displays of support or opposition to staff reports or public comments, including clapping, yelling, booing, hissing or cheering, that may create a disruptive environment for members of the public wishing to participate. Any person who disrupts or impedes the orderly conduct of a meeting will be instructed to cease the disruptive conduct. Failure to do so may result in that person being removed from the meeting.

Members of the public who would like to augment their comments with visual or audio

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### **Email or Mail Public Comment in Advance of the Meeting**

If you wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item by email or mail, please submit your comment by 12:00 p.m. on the day prior to the meeting. Indicate in the Subject Line the Agenda item number (e.g., Item No. 9) on which you are commenting. Your email or written comment will be distributed to the Municipal Advisory Council and placed into the item's record for the minutes of the meeting. Public Comments submitted in writing are public records and subject to disclosure. An unredacted version is made available when records are requested by a Public Records Act request. Please do not submit personal contact information you do not want to be made public. Please submit your comment to [ashley.bautista@ventura.org](mailto:ashley.bautista@ventura.org) or mail to:

Oak Park Municipal Advisory Council  
Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorell  
2100 E Thousand Oaks Blvd Suite E  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

### **In-Person Public Comment**

If you would like to provide a verbal comment in person during the meeting, upon arrival at the meeting location, check in with staff and complete a comment card. When your name is called for public comment, please proceed to the podium. If you do not wish to pre-register but would like to provide in-person comments at the meeting, you must check in with the staff prior to the agenda item being called.

## **OPENING**

- Call to Order by Chair Trushinski, 7:04 pm
- Roll Call Members Present: J.L. Diaz, Jane Nye, Brian Trushinski, Michelle Santucci, Seema Chandra and Oak Park Student Representative Madeleine Kim.
- Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America Brian Trushinski
- Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of the Oak Park Municipal Advisory Council held on Thursday, July 25, 2024. Brian Trushinski moved to adopt the agenda with suggested additions that are noted in the approved July 25 minutes,

seconded by Jane Nye, vote approved. Brian Trushinski asked that the July 25, 2024 minutes be amended to remove reference to Ventura County Transportation Department and revise to say that Ventura County Watershed Protection District's current 2019-2024 Routine Maintenance Agreement with CA Department of Fish and Wildlife sunsets/ends on December 31, 2024 and a new 2025-2030 CDFW Agreement needs to be submitted by Watershed by January 1, 2025.

- Agenda Review: Motion to receive and file items 11-12: Brian Trushinski, seconded by Michelle Santucci. Vote approved. Item 13 not in packet. Request to be included in next agenda packet.
- Consent Items 11-12
- Public Comments- Citizen Presentations regarding Oak Park Municipal Advisory Council related matters NOT appearing on this agenda. (See Guidelines above).
- Warren Herst, Oak Tree needs trimming it is impeding our block wall and creating major mess in the pool.
- Tom Hansen – Expressed concerns about Medea Creek Maintenance. First meeting attended by Mr. Hansen. He volunteered to do the sign board letters on both Oak Park Sign Boards.
- Brianna Adams item 19: Spoke against transitioning to quarterly or bimonthly meetings. Said it's important to continue monthly meetings.
- Deena Parry: made comments about item 19 encouraging the MAC to continue monthly meetings. She also spoke about concerns about Smoketree speed humps, a request for election forum and bushes on Tamarind and Kanan.
- Eric Steiner: made comments about item 19 encouraging monthly MAC meetings and also made a comment about the landscape committee report and concerns about Medea Creek.
- Lisa Dilallo provided comment on Cosca abatement.
- Comments by Supervisor Jeff Gorell. The Supervisor shared that he would be hosting a Fire Station Open House in Oak Park at Station 36 on Saturday October 5 from 11-3. Many agencies including the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, Public Works, Athens and Rancho Simi to attend. He also shared that he would be hosting a Home Insurance Townhall on October 15 from 6-8 in partnership with Assemblymember Irwin. An expert panel will include Deputy Insurance Commissioner Juarez. He was happy to announce that he recognized 16 Deputies for their recent crime bust of an international gang that had burglarized many homes in the area.
- Written Comments – Chair to read written comments received by the MAC prior to the meeting. One Public Comment was submitted by resident Mr. Kozel. A printed copy was not included in packet. It is included in the 10-24-24 agenda.

That topic is Medea Creek. It is also included on the Oak Park webpage at the following link:

[https://vcportal.ventura.org/BOS/District2/OakPark/docs/meeting/2024-09-26\\_To%20Greg%20Strakaluse%20CO%20The%20Oak%20Park%20Municipal%20Advisory%20Commit.pdf](https://vcportal.ventura.org/BOS/District2/OakPark/docs/meeting/2024-09-26_To%20Greg%20Strakaluse%20CO%20The%20Oak%20Park%20Municipal%20Advisory%20Commit.pdf).

- Council Comments –Comments by Council members on matters they deem appropriate. A Council member may ask a question for clarification, make a brief announcement, or make a brief report on his or her own activities. A council member may also provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual information, or request staff to report back to the body at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter. The Council may also direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda.
  - a. Michelle Santucci mentioned concerns about a public works ticket she had submitted about the intersection of Medea Creek Lane and Oak Hills Drive not being ADA compliant. Public Works has received the ticket and is evaluating. Michelle also requested cost estimate for lighting and the Oak Park monument sign. The cost estimate should be based on the existing monument sign on Kanan Rd, between Conifer Street and Tamarind Street.
  - b. Brian requested that District staff reach out to the Community Foundation of Oak Park with a request to host a MAC candidate forum. If they cannot host, he requested that staff invite candidates to provide a 5-minute introduction at the October MAC meeting. He noted there should be no debate or questions/answers. Brian also noted the importance of agenda item 17. He also requested that the Landscape Committee report be included in the minutes. It is included at the end of the report. Brian also asked that when a Ventura County Planning application for land development in Oak Park is reviewed by the MAC, and key changes to the original project design are made after the MAC meeting, the revised project design needs to come back to the MAC for another review and comment opportunity.
  - c. Seema made a request for Board packet be emailed and printed for meeting. She also made note that she received the Fire Open House flyer in her HOA mailing and was happy to see that.
  - d. New Student Representative participated for the first time. Her name is Madeleine Kim. She has an Oak Park High School Student.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items are routine and non-controversial. Items are reviewed and approved together by the Council as recommended and without discussion unless an item is pulled for separate action by the Board on the Regular Agenda. Consent items are heard at the Council's discretion and may be heard at any time during the meeting.

## RECOMMENDATION TO RECEIVE AND FILE

### 11. Ventura County Fire Department Report

- The VCFD has been contacted regarding the status of a radio communication tower that was planned for Fire Station 36 located in Oak Park. After careful consideration, we have decided not to pursue this project at the moment. Currently, we are focused on rebuilding our communications microwave system and enhancing our VHF radio capabilities. This work is integral as we evaluate all available options for our radio infrastructure's future. The tower project was intended to improve our existing system but given the ongoing design and study of the new system requirements, we are pausing the tower and other similar projects at selected locations. Additionally, we are in the process of evaluating our staffing needs, including the potential hiring of a new department IT/Radio positions following the recent departure of our previous manager as well as a Telecom Analyst. These potential new hires will play a crucial role in aligning our current and future needs to ensure we develop adequate infrastructure. Thank you for your understanding and continued support in our public safety systems.
- October 6-12 will be Fire Prevention Week. This year's theme is Smoke Alarms, Make Them Work for You. VCFD will be challenging residents to share the safety message by posting short videos of creative ways to test your smoke alarm to social media. Participants in the smoke alarm challenge could win a VIP experience with an engine company or a fire extinguisher. Start developing your ideas now. We want to see how you complete the Smoke Alarm Challenge.
- Fire conditions are high across California. VCFD firefighters have been deployed as mutual aid to many other communities this summer to help stop large wildfires, just as other agencies responded to help us on several occasions earlier this summer. That fire activity is a reminder to continue vegetation management on your property and maintain safety practices. A spark from a dragging chain on a trailer, a tossed cigarette or a hot muffler against a dry weed might be all it takes for the next fire to start.
- Oak Park Fire Station 36 Open House taking place October 5, 11-3 pm, 855 Deerhill Rd. Oak Park 91377.
- Ventura County Fire Headquarters Tour for MACs, October 9, 6-7 pm, 2400 Conejo Spectrum Street, Thousand Oaks 91320. RSVP [barbara.tuuri@ventura.org](mailto:barbara.tuuri@ventura.org).
- Home Insurance Town Hall, Ventura County Fire Headquarters, October 15, 6-8 pm. RSVP [SupervisorGorell@ventura.org](mailto:SupervisorGorell@ventura.org).

## RECOMMENDATION TO RECEIVE AND FILE

### 12. Public Safety: Ventura County Sheriff's Office Report/CHP Report

- 1 License Plate Reader Camera was installed on August 24, 2024 on westbound Kanan Rd. Between Lindero Canyon Rd/Los Arcos Dr. Two additional cameras will be installed by October 2024. The cameras are funded through the California Organized Retail Theft Prevention Grant.
- During the month of July and August, deputies working the Oak Park Community responded to 117 calls for service in July and 103 calls in August. They took 17 crime reports and 9 incident reports in July. They took 4 crime reports and 6 incident reports in August. Incident reports are generated from calls for service where deputies were unable to establish a crime but documented the incident. Those incidents are reviewed by Detectives to see if any further follow-up is required.
- Vandalism: There was a vandalism report taken. Paintball rounds were fired at a home. Investigation is on going by East County General Investigative Unit. Second vandalism report was damage of personal property, and the suspect was arrested. The case was handled by East County Patrol deputies.
- Forgery / Fraud cases: 5 cases were investigated by detectives. There was theft of mail in from community mailboxes. Several victims were identified and had the personal information used and packages stolen. Case is under investigation by the EC General Investigations Unit. The other cases were internet scam cases and suspects opening fraudulent credit accounts in the victim's name. All these cases are being investigated by the EC Financial Crimes Unit. A way to stop thieves from stealing your identity is to lock or freeze your credit. You can do this through 3 major credit bureaus. Just go to their websites for more information.
- Auto Crimes: There were multiple vehicles stolen or had their licenses plates stolen through out Oak Park. These vehicles were used in a series of gun store burglaries through out southern California. Multiple suspects were arrested in these cases and the investigation was turned over to the ATF.
- Burglary: There were no reports of residential or commercial burglaries during this reporting period.
- VCSO still seeing the trend of telephone scams throughout the Area. Remind your community members if individuals ask for banking information or personal information this is a scam. These scammers will also ask for you to pay for services via gift cards or crypto currency. These are red flags and if you receive these calls hang up and call the Sheriff's Office. Also make sure to double check the phone number and internet address you search for to confirm they are legitimate. Do not use "sponsored" sites. Many are scam sites.
- To help prevent theft from vehicles, we encourage everyone to lock their vehicles and remove all their valuable items. Remove it, Lock it, Keep it.

- CHP report is available on the Oak Park webpage at the following link: [https://vcportal.ventura.org/BOS/District2/OakPark/docs/meeting/2024-09-26\\_Oak%20Park%20MAC%20-%20September%202024.pdf](https://vcportal.ventura.org/BOS/District2/OakPark/docs/meeting/2024-09-26_Oak%20Park%20MAC%20-%20September%202024.pdf).

## RECOMMENDATION TO RECEIVE AND FILE

13. **Landscape Committee Report** - Available on the Oak Park webpage at the following link: [https://vcportal.ventura.org/BOS/District2/OakPark/docs/meeting/2024-09-26\\_Oak%20Park%20MAC%20Landscape%20Committee%20Report%20Out%20September%2026%202024.pdf](https://vcportal.ventura.org/BOS/District2/OakPark/docs/meeting/2024-09-26_Oak%20Park%20MAC%20Landscape%20Committee%20Report%20Out%20September%2026%202024.pdf)

## REGULAR AGENDA

**Regular Agenda items are heard at the Council's discretion and may be heard at any time during the meeting.**

### 14. Ventura County Sheriff's Office

- Detective Tim Behrend was available to answer questions about the police report.
- Ashley Bautista provided an update on the LPR cameras noting that one of three cameras has been installed in Oak Park by the Ventura County Sheriff's Office. The cameras are funded through a state grant.

### 15. Trash Services

- Rondi Guthrie provided an update from Athens. She announced the opening of a Sustainability Center opening in Newbury Park on October 16. She also noted that Athens provides bulky item pick up for residents.

### 16. Public Works: Director Introduction and Medea Creek

- Public Works Director Strakaluse provided an introduction. The new Director joined the County of Ventura July 29, 2024 after having served as the Public Works Director for the City of Bakersfield. Originally from Rhode Island, he holds a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering from the University of Rhode Island. He is a licensed civil engineer in the states of California and Florida. Having worked in the public sector since 1990, Gregg has extensive experience at the municipal level in various positions across several states.
- The Director addressed concerns regarding Medea Creek. He commented that the Watershed Protection District is required to clear areas of the creek for fire



prevention and will continue work in the area. Rancho Simi Parks and Rec District does maintain some areas around the Creek and they too recently worked behind homes to clear brush in the area.

- The Director also noted that he is working with his staff to provide notification to the public about public works maintenance work and capital projects.

### **17. Ventura County Transportation and Watershed Protection District Routine Maintenance Agreements with California Department of Fish & Wildlife**

- MAC Chair Brian Trushinski made a request that the MAC Board have the opportunity to evaluate and provide input on the agreement that expires in December 2024 before a new agreement is adopted. It was requested that this item be on the October agenda.

### **18. Update on the Calleguas-Las Virgenes Interconnection project**

- Guest Fernando Baez, Manager of Engineering provided a powerpoint presentation providing an update on the Calleguas-Las Virgenes Interconnection Project. He confirmed that they will be working on landscape and beautifying areas impacted by the construction.
- Calleguas Municipal Water District (Calleguas) and Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) each own and operate potable water systems largely dependent on imported water supply. Both agencies are subject to planned and unplanned interruptions of water deliveries that can negatively impact their ability to deliver potable water to their respective customers. Calleguas and LVMWD are constructing an interconnection to improve the future reliability of both systems.
- Calleguas will construct a new Pump Station/Pressure Regulating Station (PS/PRS) located along Lindero Canyon Rd. just north of the Ventura County/Los Angeles County line. Additionally, Calleguas will construct the North Interconnection Pipeline segment along Lindero Canyon Rd. between the PS/PRS and Kanan Rd., and other related facilities. Construction activities overseen by LVMWD, primarily south of the Los Angeles County line, has concluded. Project updates can be found on the project website at <http://cmwd-lvmwdinterconnection.com/>, by calling 1(800) 371-0723 or by email at [info@calleguas.com](mailto:info@calleguas.com)

### **19. MAC Operations**

- MAC Board asked to consider transitioning to quarterly or bi-monthly meetings in 2025. Public comment was provided that indicated a desire for the Board to continue with monthly meetings. There were comments about the importance of the voice of Oak Park residents being heard. Field Rep Israel Rodriguez provided an update on how other MACs in the area are moving to quarterly meetings with subcommittees meeting monthly.

- Chair Trushinski made a motion to continue monthly meetings and Jane Nye seconded the motion. The motion was passed by all.
- Sign Boards: Request for volunteer to update signage once a month. Update on lights. Community member Tom Hansen volunteered to update sign board once a month.
- 2024 Annual Report and 2025 Work Plan Discussion as per County Resolution 24-100 approved June 18, 2024. - Michelle Santucci will provide Ashley Bautista with the final Draft 2024 Oak Park Achievements Report and Brian Trushinski will provide the 2025 Work Plan, by mid-October to be on the MAC agenda in the October MAC Regular Agenda and include it in the meeting package.
- Discussion on MAC candidate introductions for October meeting.
- MAC openings: Secretary. There was discussion that the Board preferred that staff continue to take minutes for the meetings.
- Webpage updates. Ashley Bautista shared that the webpages are being updated with Board bios and photos as well as past minutes and documents.

## **CLOSING**

### **20. Adjournment of the Oak Park Municipal Advisory Council meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm

- The next two MAC meetings will be October 24, 2024 and November 21, 2024 (third Thursdays because 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays fall on Halloween and Thanksgiving). Meetings will be held at 7 pm at Oak Park High School at 899 North Kanana Rd. in Oak Park. Room G-9.