



2025 WORK PLAN

Oak Park Municipal Advisory Council
June 2025 Mid-Year Progress Report

Introduction

At the April 25, 2024, meeting of the Oak Park Municipal Advisory Council (MAC), senior staff from Supervisor Jeff Gorell's office presented an 18-page report approved by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors (BOS) entitled "County of Ventura Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) Policies".

As per the report, the Chair and Vice Chair of each MAC shall create an annual report regarding MAC activities, accomplishments, membership attendance, and records of required training. Additionally, they are required to prepare a draft proposed work plan for the following year that MAC members review, provide input, finalize, and recommend to their County Supervisor (Jeff Gorell). The public shall have the opportunity to review and provide input to the plan at the MAC's meeting prior to finalization.

2025 Work Plan of the Oak Park MAC

- 1. Establish a working committee of community stakeholders to prepare a recommended long-term management plan for Medea Creek and Lindero Canyon Creek that would be implemented by County of Ventura Agencies, Rancho Simi Recreation & Parks District (RSRPD), and other organizations with jurisdiction.**

Representation would include Supervisor Gorell's office (who would serve as Committee Chair), a MAC appointee, an Oak Park resident, Ventura County Watershed Protection District, RSRP, Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Fish & Wildlife, Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council, and Friends of Oak Park Open Space. The committee's term limit would be no more than one year and would sunset upon completion of its assignment.

The finalized management plan would offer a balanced approach recommending a diversity of Oak Park resident concerns for flood control, wildland fire prevention, health and protection of plant, wildlife, and other environmental considerations, passive recreation activities, and community aesthetics.

The plan would include regulatory and enforcement procedures that governing agencies would implement for construction and maintenance activities within the creek channels and adjacent riparian lands. Additionally, the plan would include a process for agencies to provide timely notification to Supervisor Gorell and the MAC prior to the commencement of work activities.

- 2. Establish a Lindero Canyon Road "Welcome to Oak Park" signage monument and planting area.**

A new signage monument would serve as a gateway feature to the City of Oak Park. The design could be like what exists on the Kanan Road center median between Tamarind Street and Conifer Street. Design features could include a visually attractive monument, planting bed with seasonal flowers, and solar lighting for evening identification.

3. Develop a community disaster preparedness, response, and evacuation plan for Oak Park.

Oak Park and its surroundings have experienced several wildfire events that threatened lives and caused significant damage to residential properties and open spaces: the most recent being the Rockfield Fire (July 2024) and the Woolsey Fire (November 2018). Past flooding has also occurred on Medea and Lindero Canyon creeks. Kanan Road and Lindero Canyon Road are the only vehicular evacuation routes for the City's 13,627 residents.

The MAC could develop a community disaster preparedness, response, and evacuation plan in partnership with key stakeholders including the Ventura County Sheriff's Department: Office of Emergency Service, County Fire and Public Works departments, Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council, Oak Park Unified School District, Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District, and the public. Additional outcomes might include preparation and distribution of information flyers, posts on Supervisor Gorell's Oak Park MAC website, and other means of public communication.

4. Develop a comprehensive communication channel for delivering valuable information to the community, promote public engagement and provide resources on how the community may raise and get concerns addressed.

In 2024, the MAC heard from many Oak Park residents about problems and concerns affecting their quality of life. These include home break-ins, abandoned household items left on curbsides and Medea Creek, unsightly property maintenance and derelict vehicles, loud noise after 11:00 p.m., illegal street parking and non-permitted oversized vehicles, overgrown vegetation from private properties obstructing public sidewalks, raised/dangerous sidewalks that potentially could result in trip and falls, living with nature and wildlife including coyotes and rattlesnakes, and barking and unleashed dogs, to name a few.

Communication channels may include options such as social media, brochures/ flyers, ads in the Acorn newspaper, updating information on the Kanan Road community board (near Tamarind Street), and Supervisor Gorell's website.

5. Develop a phased program to replace the current CSA 4 irrigation system with an updated and more water efficient system that uses reclaimed water.

The existing CSA 4 irrigation delivery system is antiquated, requires constant repairs, and coverage does not reach all landscape areas. It is not water efficient and often causes hillside erosion and mud flows on sidewalks which is a pedestrian safety concern. Expensive potable water is being used in many areas of CSA 4, rather than reclaimed water.

The benefits of an upgraded irrigation system can include all-area coverage, improved visual environment, reduced budget costs for water use and replacing dead plants, and increasing pedestrian safety. This is likely to be a costly initiative, and the MAC may decide that the program be implemented in phases (e.g., 5-years).

6. Develop an online Geographic Information System (GIS) map of the CSA 4 landscape district that identifies property ownership.

The MAC regularly receives community complaints and requests for landscape maintenance and improvements in CSA 4. Lands include street boulevards, creek corridors, parks, greenways, and open spaces. Not all landscape areas in CSA 4, however, are owned and managed by the County of Ventura and are the responsibility of others. Landscape property ownership is a “quilt work” situation in Oak Park including Ventura County, Rancho Simi Recreation & Parks District, Oak Park Unified School District, water, gas and other private utility companies, private homeowner associations, and private property owners.

It is time consuming for the MAC and Supervisor Gorell’s staff to identify the responsible owner. A digital GIS property ownership map that is posted on the Oak Park MAC website for anyone to access would be a helpful and needed resource to the MAC, the Landscape Committee, and the community. Some of these property databases exist and would need to be assembled into a single GIS resource tool. Others may take some time to research and for the County to acquire.

7. Develop community information updates on Supervisor Gorell’s website pertaining to MAC and other Oak Park activities.

As a community service, the MAC could heighten Oak Park residents’ awareness of what is happening in their community by preparing monthly articles for posting on Supervisor Gorell’s website. Community service topics might include, for example:

- Highlights of decisions made at monthly MAC meetings.
- Upcoming community meetings and open houses sponsored by Ventura County agencies, RSRPD, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council, and Oak Park Unified School District.
- Community volunteer events.

8. Sponsor “Speakers Nights” from government agencies and community experts on topics of importance to Oak Park residents.

In addition to the MAC meetings, it could be arranged through Supervisor Gorell’s office to also have quarterly events where government and community experts would speak on topics of importance to Oak Park residents. Topics might include:

- Ventura County Fire Department and the Fire Safe Council regarding community and home fire safety.
- Ventura County Sheriff’s Department on crime prevention and home protection.
- RSRPD on parks, trails, recreation programs, and other community facilities.
- Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and Master Gardeners of Ventura County on water conservation and drought tolerant planting.

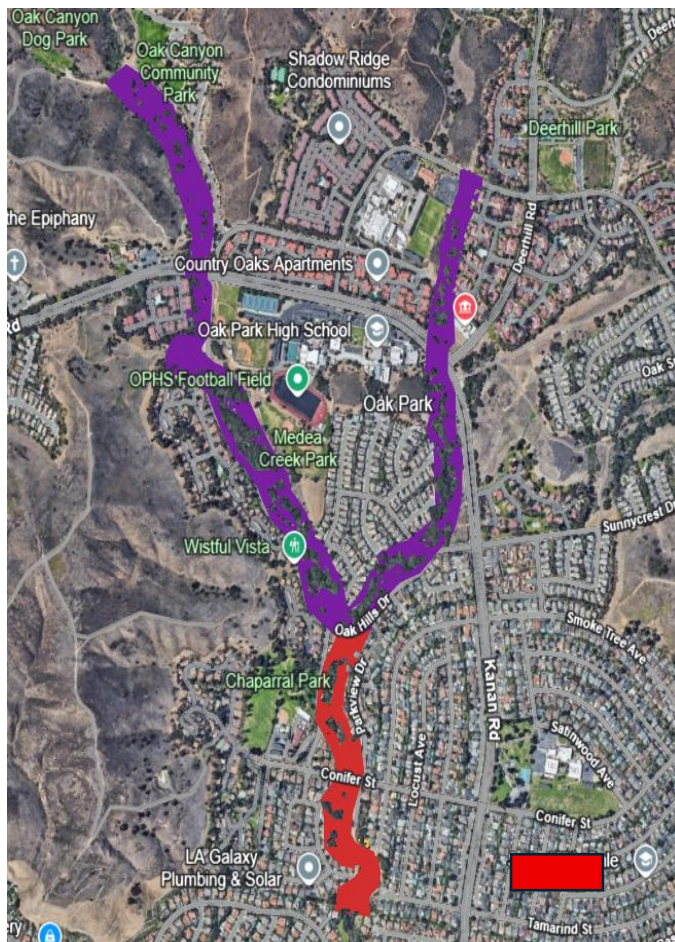
June 2025 Oak Park MAC Work Plan Progress Report

1. Medea Creek Long-Range Management Plan

The Medea Creek corridor is owned by Rancho Simi Recreation & Parks District (RSRPD). Most of Phase 1 lands and a small section/ reach in Phase 2 immediately downstream of Kanan Road are maintained by Ventura County Watershed Protection District and the Public Works Transportation Department for flood control purposes under County Ordinance and California Department of Fish & Wildlife regulations and permit requirements.

The purpose of the Medea Creek Long-Range Management Plan is to provide a practical and fair approach for the long-term health and sustainability of Medea Creek by balancing community expectations for environmental, flood and wildfire protection, and community aesthetics. The Plan consists of two phases of planning and implementation. Phase 1 is currently underway.

Phase 1 takes the position that a 30-ft. wide swath of land on both sides of Medea Creek, (60-ft. width in total) is to be set aside in perpetuity as a no-touch undisturbed area where non-invasive plants and other future plantings are allowed to grow in support of aquatic and wildlife habitat and other environmental benefits. At certain locations, the buffer width will need to be reduced to accommodate mandatory wildfire defensible space regulations as per Ventura County Fire Protection Department Ordinance and Standard 515.



Medea Creek Management Plan: Phase 1

Phase 1 is from the Oak Park/ Agoura Hills municipal boundary upstream to Oak Hills Drive (approximately 2,550 linear feet). This is a high priority area and significant environmental concern has been expressed over the past decade by Friends of Oak Park Open Space and numerous citizens in response to the County of Ventura annually clearing all existing creek corridor vegetation and wildlife habitat as part of their flood management mandate. This Work Plan progress report is the starting point for addressing Phase 1 with additional reporting to follow in 2025/26.

Phase 2 (approximately 9,400 linear feet) consists of (i) the east branch from Oak Hills Drive upstream to Doubletree Road/ west of Deerhill Park, and (ii) the west branch from Oak Hills Drive upstream across Kanan Road to the Oak Canyon Community Park. Phase 2 will be addressed as part of the Oak Park MAC's 2026 Work Plan.

Medea Creek Management Plan: Phase 1

2. Lindero Canyon Road “Welcome to Oak Park” Monument Signage

Community residents have requested that a “Welcome to Oak Park” monument sign and planting bed be located on Lindero Canyon Road somewhere near the Oak Park/ Agoura Hills municipal

boundary. This community gateway feature would be similar in design to the Kanan Road center median monument between Tamarind Street and Conifer Street and would inform people that they are entering Oak Park.



County staff have advised that construction of this project is likely to cost approximately \$15,000.00. Once the Ventura County Board of Supervisors approves the FY 2025/26 budget, the MAC will need to address this with the public at the July or September MAC meeting and decide if it wants to fund the project out of the CSA 4 budget. If the project is supported, the MAC will need to address the following:

- Location of the monument sign.
- Architectural design.
- Evening lighting, planting and irrigation scheme.

The County Public Works Agency would then need to review the MAC's input and finalize the design details along with receiving approval from the Board of Supervisors to proceed, take the project out to contractor bid, and prepare a traffic safety plan before construction begins. The process is anticipated to take 6 to 8 months before construction could begin.

3. Oak Park Preparedness, Response and Evacuation Plan

Progress: January – June 2025

The County of Ventura is responsible for developing plans of this nature, particularly when it requires county resources or impacts other communities, however, the OP MAC can and will continue to ensure community concerns are escalated to Ventura County leadership. Following is how the OP MAC has been advocating on behalf of the community:

1. May 2025: A MAC member attended the City of Agoura Hills Planning Commission meeting on May 1, 2025 to gain an understanding of their 182-page Emergency Evacuation study required by the State to be conducted. The Planning Commission, as well as community members, including some from Oak Park, expressed concerns with the study, specifically flaws in the worst-case time of day scenarios used, and evacuation routes and methods (such as counter traffic flow along Kanan), and that neighboring jurisdictions and agencies, such as the Ventura County Office of Emergency Services, were unaware of the evacuation study and recommendations. Ultimately, the Planning Commission approved the study to be submitted to the Agoura Hills City Council as it met the State's criteria, with the recommendation to have another study

conducted within the next year with different worst-case scenarios and input from neighboring jurisdictions and agencies. As a result:

- Ventura County Office of Emergency Services, who previously was not aware of this study, contacted it's Los Angeles County counterpart.
- The survey has not yet been adopted by the City of Agoura Hills City Council (i.e., it has not yet been published on their meeting agenda).
- The City of Agoura Hills Staff publicly acknowledged the Ventura County agencies rapid response and handling of the Kenneth fire. Perhaps lessons learned can be reviewed and applied to future and cross jurisdiction wildfire evacuation planning.

2. June 2025: To educate and raise community awareness an Emergency Preparedness

Presentation is scheduled for the June 26, 2025 OP MAC meeting by Kim Dellacort, Emergency Manager Ventura County Sheriff's Emergency Services.

July – December 2025 Actions:

1. Continue to ensure community concerns are elevated to Ventura County leadership and reinforce to the community how to stay informed by the Ventura County Office of Emergency Services (e.g., VC Alert).
2. Continue to attend The City of Agoura Hills City Council meetings for the purpose of sharing information with Ventura County leadership (i.e., District 2 Supervisor).

4. Develop a comprehensive communication channel for delivering valuable information to the community, promote public engagement provide resources on how the community may raise and get concerns addressed.

Progress: January – June 2025

1. Developed and launched new social media communication channels via Facebook and Instagram. Inaugural content posted March 18, 2025.
2. Posted various topics of community interest including:

Events:

- Triunfo Water & Sanitation District PURE coffee tasting – May 3
- Community Garden Open House – May 17
- Annual Cleanup Event – June 7
- Deerhill Pickleball Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – June 19

Special Acknowledgments:

- Brain Stormz Robotics Team – April 16
- Kindergarten teacher Jordyn Solny – May 30

Public Safety and Emergency Response:

- Emergency Medical Response (EMS) activity dashboard -
- E-bike safety – May 6

Public Works

- Roadway Improvement Project – April 27

Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) Meeting Reminders

- Including link to meeting agenda

3. The Acorn

Articles on topics of interest written and submitted by community member, Tom Hansen

July – December 2025 Actions:

1. Promote communication channels to increase community awareness and inspire engagement

5. Upgrading CSA 4 Irrigation to a More Cost-Efficient Reclaimed Water System

The existing CSA 4 irrigation system antiquated requires constant repairs and coverage does not reach all landscape areas. It is not water efficient and often causes slope erosion and mud flows on adjacent sidewalks which is a pedestrian safety concern. Expensive potable water is being used in most of the CSA 4 area, rather than reclaimed water. The benefits of an upgraded irrigation system include all-area coverage, improved visual environment, reduced CSA 4 budget costs for water use and replacing dead plants, and improves pedestrian safety.



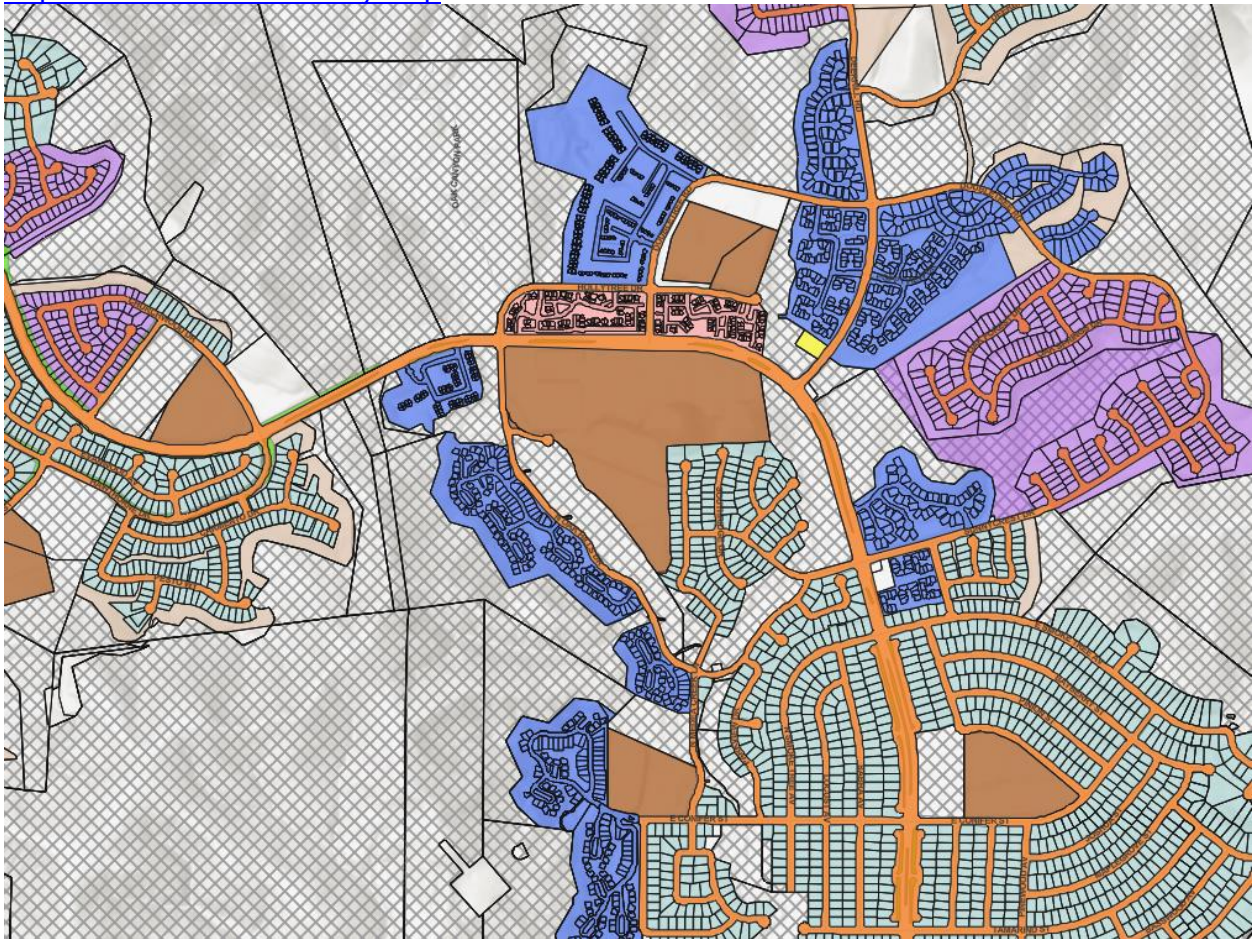
County staff have advised the Oak Park MAC Landscape Committee that this would be a very expensive long-term (possibly 10 year) project to implement. If supported, implementation should be done in yearly phases as the CSA 4 budget allows. A long-term strategic plan should be prepared by the MAC, with direct involvement from the County and Triunfo Water and Sanitation District. The plan would need to determine the feasibility of receiving an adequate and sustainable supply of reclaimed water from Triunfo, identify property ownership (surveys) to avoid encroachments, an order of implementation priority throughout CSA 4, irrigation infrastructure and equipment required, and erosion control, to name a few important considerations.

Meetings with Ventura County and Triunfo staff need to be held this year to collectively understand the scope, feasibility and budgetary impacts of this project. The outcome of these meetings will be presented in the MAC's year-end Work Plan report.

6. On-Line Geographic Information System Map of CSA 4

Both the MAC and Supervisor Gorell's office staff regularly receive community complaints and requests for landscape maintenance and improvements. Landscape areas include street boulevards, creek corridors, parks and greenways, and open spaces. Not all landscape areas in Oak Park, however, are in Ventura County's jurisdictional CSA 4. And many lands in CSA 4 are not owned by the County of Ventura and are the legal responsibility of others to maintain. Landscape property ownership is a "quilt work" situation including Rancho Simi Recreation & Parks District, Oak Park Unified School District, Triunfo Water & Sanitation District, other utility companies, private homeowner associations, and private property owners. It is time consuming to identify the responsible property owner.

A digital Geographic Information System (GIS) property ownership map along with other important community information is currently being developed as a website by Ventura County Public Works: Central Services and the MAC Landscape Committee. This can be accessed at: [PWA Supervisorial District 2 Utility Map](#).



Additional work on this website map will occur over the summer months with an expected completion date by the September MAC meeting.

7. Develop community information updated on Supervisor Gorell's website pertaining to MAC and other Oak Park activities

A redesigned Oak Park MAC webpage was also launched to provide residents with a more accessible and user-friendly hub for meeting agendas, announcements, and local resources.

Community members are encouraged to share information about upcoming events or neighborhood news for inclusion on the webpage and social media by emailing: SupervisorGorell@ventura.org.

8. Community Speakers Nights

This item would have MAC members arrange through Supervisor Gorell's office to have subject matter experts speak at special community events on topics pertinent to Oak Park residents. Suggested topics include but are not limited to:

- Ventura County Fire Department and the Fire Safe Council regarding wildfire preparedness and evacuation planning.
- Ventura County Sheriff's Department on crime prevention, home protection, and e-bike regulations.
- Rancho Simi Recreation & Parks District on their parks, trails, recreation programs and community facilities.
- Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, Triunfo Water & Sanitation District, and Master Gardeners of Ventura County on water conservation and drought tolerant planting.

Earlier this year, the MAC decided that it would be preferable to have speakers present at the monthly MAC meetings. Thus far in 2025, the MAC has hosted speaker sessions with the Fire Department, Fire Safe Council, Sheriff's Department, and Las Virgenes Municipal Water District.