

OPENING

1. Call to Order

Order called at 7:01 P.M. by Chair Brian Trushinski

2. Roll Call

J.L Diaz, Brianna Adams, Brian Trushinski, and Vice Chair Michelle Santucci present. Jane Nye is absent.
Quorum met.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Brian Trushinski

4. Approve Minutes of the May 29, 2025 Oak Park MAC Meeting

Motion to approve by J.L Diaz. Second by Michelle Santucci. Abstention by Jane Nye. Motion passes.

5. Review and Approve the June 26, 2025 Oak Park MAC Meeting Agenda

Brian Trushinski says that item 13 will be presented at a time certain, 7:15 P.M. Trushinski explains that communication that is described by item 8 by the organization called Save Open Space Santa Monica Mountains will be featured as a written comment and he will read it aloud. The Save Open Space letter will be addressed after the Office of Emergency Services presentation.

Motion to approve by J.L Diaz. Second by Brianna Adams. Abstention by Jane Nye. Motion passes.

6. Approve Consent Items

Motion to approve by Michelle Santucci. Second by J.L. Diaz. Abstention by Jane Nye. Motion passes.

Consent Item A: Recommendation to Receive and File: Ventura County Sheriff's
Office Report

Consent Item B: Recommendation to Receive and File: California Highway
Patrol Report

Consent Item C: Recommendation to Receive and File: CSA 4 Landscape
Committee Report

Consent Item D: Recommendation to Receive and File: Ventura County Fire
Department Report:

Ventura County Fire Presentation: In attendance is Chief Welsbie, Chief Cleary, and Assistant Marshall
Worford

- **Early Fire Detection:**
A new AI-powered camera system, developed by CalFire and UCSD, is effectively identifying early wildfire activity by analyzing real-time video feeds.
- **Drone Enforcement:**
The VCFD strongly condemns the use of drones in or near wildfire zones. Drones endanger

aircrews and can interrupt critical fire suppression efforts. Operating drones during an active fire response is illegal.

- **Evacuation Guidance:**

Evacuation zones are carefully mapped to impact the fewest residents possible. If you are questioning whether to evacuate, you should. Residents are encouraged not to wait for official orders if they feel unsafe.

- **Wildfire Preparedness:**

- Avoid yard work and other hazardous outdoor activities during periods of extreme heat or dryness.
- Create personal evacuation plans for various times of the day, considering the needs of all household members.

- **Structural Fire Mitigation:**

- Older homes in Oak Park should be retrofitted with 1/8" metal grate screens on eaves to reduce the risk of embers entering attics.
- Vinyl fencing is highly flammable and should be reconsidered—especially in light of new "Zone Zero" state ordinances aimed at reducing ignition risk around homes.

- **Public Question – John Tyros:** "Are 1/8" screens sufficient?"

Assistant Marshal Worford: "Yes, 1/8" screens are ideal for most situations. While 1/16" screens are available, 1/8" provides better airflow into attics during non-fire months."

- **Evacuation Congestion:**

In the event of evacuation-related gridlock, residents should avoid panicking. If necessary, it is safer to remain in a parked vehicle away from structures than to attempt to leave the area in heavy traffic.

- **Regional Collaboration:**

The Oak Park Fire Station continues to maintain a strong mutual aid relationship with LA County Fire's Battalion 5 in Agoura Hills.

- **Fire Season Forecast:**

Predictive services anticipate conditions this year will mirror the severity of the previous fire season.

- **Equipment and Staffing Enhancements:**

Ventura County is one of only six counties in California to receive CalFire staffing grants. The County has added four new Type 3 wildland fire engines—4x4 vehicles specifically designed for off-road firefighting in rugged terrain.

VCFD begins their presentation. [View full presentation.](#)

Michelle Santucci:

- Recommended inviting VCFD and the Office of Emergency Services to present annually, ideally in September ahead of peak wildfire season.

- Proposed increased public education on the risks and legal restrictions of drone use during high fire danger periods, citing the Palisade Fire incident where a drone grounded firefighting aircraft.

Consent Item E: Recommendation to Receive and File: Tickler Log

7. Public Comments

Margaret Krunshaw:

A resident living near Medea Creek expressed concern about a buildup of dead vegetation in the Oak Hills Drive/Kanan Road area, describing it as a “tinderbox” with significant fire risk. She noted that many neighbors share her concern. Krunshaw also reported a recurring issue with an RV parked along Oak Hills Drive since November, suspected to be occupied, despite prior citations from law enforcement. She requested “No Camping” signage and restrictions on oversized vehicle parking along Medea Creek and adjacent Oak Park streets.

- **J.L. Diaz:** Acknowledged the concern and offered to help organize a community volunteer cleanup effort.
- **Chair Brian Trushinski:** Noted the County’s oversized vehicle ordinance. He also confirmed the land is owned by Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, with maintenance easements held by the Ventura County Watershed Protection District, which performed work there in October 2023. It’s likely the debris was left by contractors and should be followed up on by Supervisor Gorell’s office.
- **Ashley Bautista:** Noted that the Supervisor’s Office can request additional enforcement and monitoring by CHP.

Anne Hogya:

Oak Park Library’s librarian shared updates on expanding services at Ventura County libraries. These include free NARCAN, gun locks, Chromebook and hotspot lending, and ESL classes in seven languages. The library also has a new scanner that can digitize photos and translate foreign language text. She highlighted the summer reading program for all ages and emphasized the importance of broader evacuation planning for Oak Park. She stated the library has an emergency plan in place but believes communitywide planning could be improved.

8. Written Comments

Mary Wisebrock, Save Open Space Santa Monica Mountains:

Thanked Chair Trushinski for reading her organization’s letter aloud. She urged the MAC to send a formal letter to the Agoura Hills City Council opposing proposed developments that could hinder Oak Park’s emergency evacuation routes. She also recommended that Ventura County Planning submit a

similar letter. Wisebrock warned that if Agoura's development plans proceed, Oak Park's evacuation challenges would become significantly worse.

9. MAC Member Comments

No comments

10. Oak Park MAC Committee and Liaison Reports:

A. CSA 4 Landscape Committee (Brian Trushinski) (report included in packet)

B. Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Liaison (Brian Trushinski)

C. Legislative Committee (Michelle Santucci)

Michelle Santucci provided highlights of the Board of Supervisors approved CSA 4 budget.

1. Meeting 6/24/25 - Consent Agenda Items #55: Approval of new CSA 4 landscape vendor, Mariposa Landscaping
 - a. 3 year contract effective 7/1/25 through 6/30/28
 - b. 2 – 1 year extensions
 - c. Annual cost \$392,784 (basic services) with approval up to \$542,784 for Certain Modifications to the contract not to exceed \$150K a year:
 - i. Modifications to the Scope of maintenance services specified in the contract (e.g., extra services, new or changes to maintenance schedules)
 - ii. Increase of materials and/or labor (i.e., expense reimbursement)
 - d. 2025/2026 Proforma reflected \$510K. Assuming same or better level of service, and without any potential and likely, contract modifications that is a reduction of \$117.2K
 - e. Contract and related documents are available on the VC BOS website

D. Oak Park Unified School District Liaison (Brianna Adams)

No update as schools are out for summer break.

E. Fire Safe Council Liaison (JL Diaz)

J.L. Diaz reported that FireWise will host an informational booth at the July 12 concert in the park. He noted the community's excitement about the new pickleball courts at Deerhill Park, with soundproofing improvements planned.

Diaz also shared progress on a memorial bench dedicated to Ron Stark at the Oak Park Library. He has been working closely with Librarian Anne Hogya and obtained multiple cost estimates ranging from \$800 to \$2,000, with an average of \$1,000. The Ventura County Library Foundation is assisting with fundraising, and the County library system has agreed to install and maintain the bench.

- **Ashley Bautista:** Suggested a plaque or a framed Board of Supervisors proclamation as more affordable tribute options.
- **Brianna Adams:** Supported the idea of a proclamation as a simpler alternative.

- **Chair Brian Trushinski:** Asked Diaz which bench design he preferred.
- **Diaz:** Responded that the final design would depend on the amount of funding raised.

F. Triunfo Water & Sanitation District Liaison (Jane Nye)

No report. Jane Nye was absent from the meeting.

11. Announcements and Other Business

Chair Brian Trushinski requested that the July 31 MAC meeting agenda include discussion of Mary Wisebrock's proposal for the MAC to send a letter to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors expressing dissatisfaction with the findings of the City of Agoura's emergency evacuation report. He noted that the consultant's report fails to adequately account for the significant traffic and timing impacts on Oak Park residents who rely on Kanan Road for evacuation access to the 101 Freeway.

12. Supervisor Gorell or a representative from his office for remarks

Supervisor Gorell shared that the Ventura County Board of Supervisors recently adopted a balanced \$3.92 billion budget. While other counties have faced layoffs and service cuts, Ventura County remains fiscally stable thanks to the prudent budgeting practices of previous Boards. The majority of the County's funding supports Health and Human Services, the Fire Department, Public Transportation, and the Family Justice Center. However, the County's budget also assumes potential shifts in both state and federal funding, as the Governor's proposed budget includes significant cuts, and the State Legislature has passed an unbalanced budget.

Supervisor Gorell also announced that the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD), on which he serves, received the Whale's Tail Award for efforts to reduce coastal pollution by encouraging slower shipping speeds—an initiative that also helps protect marine life, including whales.

Additionally, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy has secured a \$30 million grant for wildfire mitigation, which will fund fuel reduction, fire road maintenance, water pump installations, and brush-clearing goat programs. Gorell affirmed his confidence in local preparedness, praising Emergency Services Director Patrick Maynard's effective response during the Kenneth Fire and noting the overall success of the evacuation effort.

Looking ahead, Supervisor Gorell is considering a full presentation to the MAC by Public Works and the Ventura County Fire Department regarding fuel mitigation and maintenance along Medea Creek. He suggested that a formal MAC vote on the next steps would help solidify the Council's position and demonstrate alignment with the Supervisor's Office.

Chair Brian Trushinski:

Trushinski emphasized that holding a vote at this stage would be premature. The proposed long-range management plan for Medea Creek is still in the early planning phase and requires significant work, including stakeholder consultation. He noted that the Ventura County Watershed Protection District had just submitted its floodplain analysis, a request originally made by the MAC in November 2024.

Trushinski recommended deferring a vote until September or later, once a more complete draft is available for review. He highlighted the need for input from multiple agencies and community groups, including the Fire Department, Fire Safe Council, Friends of Oak Park Open Space, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Ventura County Conservation Resource Council, Triunfo Water & Sanitation District, and the broader public.

He expressed confidence that the final plan can balance wildfire mitigation, flood control, and environmental preservation. Early analysis shows that the 100-year floodplain reaches only the inner edge of the trail along much of the creek, allowing for a 60-foot environmental buffer that would still support both safety and ecological goals.

Supervisor Jeff Gorell:

Stressed the importance of having subject matter experts guide the process to ensure efficient and informed decision-making.

J.L. Diaz:

Asked who is leading the concept plan's development.

Chair Trushinski:

Responded that he is currently developing the plan himself due to a lack of funding from Ventura County and Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District. He noted his relevant experience and the urgency of progress after more than a decade of inaction.

Diaz:

Shared that while he is helping with the Oak Park monument design, he is relying on professionals and asked whether Trushinski had similar design expertise.

Trushinski:

Acknowledged the limitations but reiterated that hiring a consultant is not financially feasible. He reminded the MAC that the Medea Creek plan is already included in the approved 2025 Work Plan, which was presented at three public meetings with opportunities for public feedback.

Diaz:

Suggested bringing all key stakeholders together to accelerate planning.

Supervisor Gorell:

Explained that a formal MAC vote can demonstrate unified support and help elevate the issue to the Board of Supervisors but noted that external stakeholder participation cannot be mandated.

Chair Trushinski:

Stated he would not support moving the item to a vote until a complete draft plan is ready. He emphasized the importance of community input and interagency collaboration, noting that advancing the proposal without sufficient groundwork would be premature.

Outcome:

No motion was made. The item remains under development for future review by the MAC.

Michelle Santucci moves to extend the meeting until 10:00 P.M. Second by Brianna Adams. Abstention by Jane Nye. Motion passes.

13. Office of Emergency Services – Emergency Preparedness Presentation – Kim Dellacort, Emergency Manager Ventura County Sheriff's Office

[See full presentation.](#)

Kim Dellacort emphasized that every disaster is different and dynamic, which is why pre-designated evacuation route maps are not always recommended. The Sheriff's Office prioritizes public safety and allocates full resources during emergencies.

- **Evacuation Notifications:**
 - **J.L. Diaz** asked whether individuals must be signed up for VC Alert to receive evacuation notifications.
 - **Kim Dellacort** responded that personalized registration with VC Alert ensures the best chance of receiving timely and accurate alerts.
 - **Brianna Adams** raised concerns about Oak Park Unified School District's unique challenges, where many students live outside the community.
 - **Dellacort** advised that school systems should have their own methods to notify parents in addition to VC Alert.
- **Cross-Jurisdiction Coordination:**
 - **Michelle Santucci** questioned coordination between Ventura and LA Counties, citing flaws in Agoura Hills' evacuation study.
 - **Kim Dellacort** said Ventura and LA County agencies maintain a positive relationship but could not speak to specific coordination plans with Agoura.
- **Emergency Planning & Drones:**
 - **Brian Trushinski** noted Ventura County is updating its 5-year Multi-Hazard, Multi-Jurisdictional Plan. He cautioned against consultants using generic templates and called for robust planning specific to Oak Park. He also expressed frustration over drone use during wildfires, which endangers air crews.
 - **Kim Dellacort** and **VCFD** confirmed drones are illegal during active firefighting and should be reported to 911. Drone interference has halted air operations during the Kenneth and Mountain Fires.
 - **Supervisor Gorell** and **Dellacort** agreed on the need for stronger public education and enforcement. Dellacort confirmed she would incorporate these concerns into future planning.
- **Community Concerns & Questions:**
 - **Mike Green:** Described traffic gridlock during the Woolsey Fire evacuation, with freeway closures and congestion on Kanan Road.

- **Tom Hansen:** Asked about home safety during evacuation.
 - **Kim Dellacort:** The Sheriff's Department enforces strict closures during evacuations.
 - **VCFD:** Looting is rare but possible. Residents are encouraged to leave lights on and consider leaving doors unlocked for firefighter access—though the final decision is up to the homeowner.
- **Steven Kozell:** Raised concerns about constant drone use and spectators in open spaces during fires.
 - **Kim Dellacort:** Agreed and stated public messaging will be increased in future events.
- **Sam Wasserman:** Asked what to do before evacuating.
 - **VCFD:** Move combustibles like patio furniture away from the home, remove curtains, leave lights on, and do not shut off gas. Visit the *Ready, Set, Go!* website for more tips. They reiterated: **"If You Fly, We Can't"**—drone activity grounds air operations and puts lives at risk.
- **Brian Trushinski:** Asked about the fire safety of artificial turf.
 - **VCFD:** Confirmed it is flammable and should be kept at least five feet away from structures.
- **John Tyros:** Raised concerns about communication during power outages and recommended "Map Your Neighborhood" as a solution.
 - **Kim Dellacort:** Power outages significantly disrupt communication. The County is pressing Southern California Edison for improvements.
- **Frank Lunhurz:** Criticized the Woolsey Fire evacuation process and noted the danger posed by dry medians and close proximity of pine trees to roadways.
- **Anne Hogle:** Recommended Ventura County adopt a .gov domain in their messaging because this is the new website domain for the County.
 - **Dellacort:** Confirmed the County is transitioning and will automatically redirect from .org to .gov during the change.
- **Carol (Public Commenter):** A 46-year Oak Park resident, shared her research showing Oak Park has one of the worst evacuation bottlenecks in the country. With limited escape routes, any large-scale evacuation poses serious challenges.

14. 2025 Oak Park MAC Work Plan Progress Reports

1. Long-Range Management Plan for Medea Creek (Brian Trushinski)

Spoke about this earlier in the meeting.

2. Lindero Canyon Road "Welcome to Oak Park" Monument Sign (JL Diaz) JL Diaz said he's relying on the professionals to provide input on cost for signage. Preliminary quotes are over \$15,000.

3. Oak Park Preparedness, Response and Evacuation Plan (Brianna Adams, Michelle Santucci)

Michelle Santucci says that this topic has been spoken about in great detail in this evening's meeting. She is feeling more educated on this topic. The OP MAC will continue to advocate with the County to ensure community concerns are being heard and addressed.

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. (Michelle Santucci, Brianna Adams)

The social media accounts that have been established with District 2 taking the lead. Several posts have been made since February on a variety of topics. The goal for the second half of the year will be increasing the “following” by the community on the OP MAC internet, Facebook and Instagram pages.

5. Upgrading the CSA 4 Irrigation System (Brian Trushinski, Jane Nye)

This will be expensive and long term. There is no cost benefit analysis yet. This will not be finished this year. This will have to be handled by a professional. This will require discussions with various professional and accountable agencies. This Work Plan item will need to be carried into 2026 and should be included in the MAC’s 2026 Work Plan.

6. Oak Park Geographic Information System (Brian Trushinski)

The live GIS map is 90% complete. So far it is very useful with all of its tools and different maps. Residents can access it now at: [PWA Supervisorial District 2 Utility Map](#).

7. Develop community information updated on Supervisor Gorell’s website pertaining to MAC and other Oak Park activities (Sup. Gorell’s Office)

New MAC pages with minutes and agendas are now live. Continuing to work on making it more user friendly.

8. Community Speakers Nights (all MAC Board Members)

The talks that have occurred in the MAC meetings and will continue at MAC meetings.

CLOSING

15. Adjournment Chair Brian Trushinski adjourns the meeting at 10:24 P.M.

Next Oak Park MAC Meeting July 31, 2025, 7:00 pm OPHS G-9, 899 Kanan Rd,
Oak Park