

# THE EL RIO /DEL NORTE MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

*Serving El Rio, Nyeland Acres, Strickland and Agricultural Areas*

*Now serving as Advisory Council for recreational activities in the El Rio/Del Norte area, including advisory recommendations for the El Rio Roger Jones Community Center.*

## **SUMMARY**

### **(SPECIAL MEETING DATE)**

**Thursday April 5, 2018**

**Nyeland Acres Community Center  
3334 Santa Clara Ave.  
Oxnard, CA 93036**

- I. **Call to Order:** 6:00 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call – Regular Members**  
**Present,** David Souza (Vice-Chair) (Nyeland)  
**Present,** Don Hoffman (Vineyard Acres)  
**Absent,** Bonnie Bernal (Cloverdale)  
**Excused,** Ken Knudsen (Vineyard Estates)  
**Absent,** Julie Hupp (Strickland)  
**Present,** Loraine Bailon (Rio Plaza)
- At Large Members**  
**Present,** Mike Barber (Chair)  
**Present,** Aaron Wedemeyer  
**Present,** (arrived 6:24) Tino Ramirez
- III. **Pledge**
- IV. **Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda (3min. per individual)**
- V. **Action Items:**
  1. **Request for Review and Recommendation**

**Subject: Discussion Regarding State of California's Proposal for a Ventura County Firefighter Certification Training Program / Parolee Fire Training Center at the Ventura Conservation Camp Located at 2800 Wright Rd. in Oxnard.**

Supervisor John Zaragoza and Camarillo Chief of Police, Dave Murray were present to speak and answer questions on the item.

Chief Murray said from a public safety aspect, the state's proposal is not good. Additionally, they have provided little to no information regarding the details of the program.

Q: Are there convicted felons at the site now? A: Yes

Q: Will the parolees train Monday through Friday? What happens on weekends? A: It's unknown. The state has not disclosed data.

Q: How are the parolees selected for the program? A: Per Chief Murray, we are told it will be the best of the best as far as criminal parolees, but they are still convicted felons.

Q: Will they be housed there as well? A: Yes, the proposal is for parolees to be housed at the Wright Road facility with a curfew each night. It is unknown if parolees would be allowed to be in the program and live offsite.

Q: Who will provide the medical, dental and other care needed? A: Again, details are unknown

Q: How does this reduce recidivism? Is there a job available at the end of training? Will employers want to hire ex-felons? A: There no guarantee of a job at the end of the program. Employment may be hard to find.

Q: Is this the best way to spend 26 million dollars? Perhaps training the parolees to work in construction or as auto mechanics would be more practical.

Q: Does anyone know of any organizations who are actually for this proposal? A: As far as we know, it's just the State backing it, it is a new program.

Q: Could they be employed as something other than Municipal Firefighters? Could they do on-call or seasonal work through Cal Fire? A: Possibly, Cal Fire and the US Forest service, are the main organizations who have a need. The question then becomes how many individuals can you feed these programs?

In the audience were CA dept. of Corrections officers who work at the facility attending on their own behalf, as members of the community not as representatives of the Dept. of Corrections. They agreed with the comments from Chief Murray.

Q: The Correction Officers were asked, how frequent are problems at the facility? A: Very infrequent. The inmates are locked in and only allowed out for work during certain hours.

The comment was made that parolees will most likely want to have family members living in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Q: When is the Governor's budget, which includes this item, approved? A: June 2018

Q: The Legislative Analysts Office (LAO) recommends rejection, correct? A: Yes

Q: How much weight does the LAO have? A: The LAO has significant influence. The item could be pulled or added to at the May revise. Input from the surrounding communities was sent to Congresswoman Hannah Beth Jackson, Assemblymember Monique Limon and Assemblymember Jaqui Irwin.

Q: There have been a lot of meetings asking various groups to make decisions on this topic. Is this an effort to encourage groups to not go for it? A: Yes, the resistance it's coming from Districts #5 and #3, the City of Camarillo, the Camarillo Police Dept. and the Ventura County Sheriff's Office.

Q: Has the Ventura County Board of Supervisors taken a position on this? A: No just Districts #5 and #. Supervisor Long and Supervisor Zaragoza wrote a joint letter to the State of California, stating opposition.

Q: Supervisor Zaragoza, do you plan on taking this to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors? A: Eventually if necessary, I most likely would.

Q: What would it take to stop this program? A: Pressure, input, hopefully the MAC will write a letter as many others have done. There is a meeting on April 10, 2018 in Camarillo regarding this issue.

There are also schools near the facility. A: Yes, Mesa Union is one.

Q: Who approves this budget? How does it come down from the state? A: It goes from the Governor to the Assembly and then to the Senate. If the Senate and the Assembly say no...then it's out. Sharing our concerns and having our elected officials know how we feel is important.

Q: How many agents for the 80 parolees? A: only two, the parolees are not incarcerated, so if there is an issue, different police resources may be required.

Q: Do they get paid during this training? A: Yes \$1900.00 per month

Q: Where will they be fed? A: It is unknown. The state has left many questions unanswered. For example, who will provide their medical care, who will clean up after them? This is all unknown.

Q: Will they train at the Camarillo Fire Training Center? A: It is not known, however they want to build their own facility on location for 26 million dollars.

Q: Would there be 80 permanent participants or would they be filtering through?  
A: As participants leave, new people come in.

Q: Would they have to travel right through Nyeland, to go to the closest store?

A: Possibly

Chair Barber said Supervisor Zaragoza has asked for the MAC's support in opposing the State's proposal via a letter.

A motion to send a letter to Supervisor Zaragoza stating the El Rio/Del Norte Municipal Advisory Council's strong opposition to a CCC Parolee training Camp at Wright Rd. was made by Councilmember Hoffman and seconded by Councilmember Ramirez, the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

**VI. Adjourn:** 6:28 p.m.

APPROVED