

**CASA CONEJO MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES  
January 15, 2020**

**The Casa Conejo MAC held a Meeting Wednesday, January 15, 2020,  
6:00 p.m. at Walnut Elementary School, 581 Dena Drive, Newbury Park**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by **Wendy Zimmerman** at 6:02 pm. MAC members **Richard Gaz, R. Scott Horn** and **Edward Villa, Sr.** were present.

**2. Flag Salute**

**Wendy Zimmerman** led the flag salute.

**3. Election of MAC Chair and Vice Chair**

**Richard Gaz** moved to nominate **Scott Horn** as Chair and **Ed Villa** as Vice Chair. **Wendy Zimmerman** seconded the motion, and it passed 4/0.

**4. Approval of Minutes from September 15, 2019**

**Wendy Zimmerman** moved to approve the minutes from September 18, 2019 with no changes. **Richard Gaz** seconded the motion and it passed 4/0.

**5. Agenda Review**

There were no changes to the agenda.

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

**California Highway Patrol Lieutenant Michael Logie** reported that the Casa Conejo area has been quiet. **Ventura County Sheriff Senior Deputy John Chiamonte** reported a vehicle burglary on Wendy Drive, a home renovation break-in on Gerald Drive, a forgery case on Lesser Drive, and an ongoing domestic issue on Dorena Drive. He alerted residents that gift card scams are occurring in the area and encouraged everyone to report any suspicious activity.

**7. Updates**

**a. Status of California American Water Company's New Rate Case, Jay Spurgin, City of Thousand Oaks Public Works Director**

**Mr. Spurgin** provided an overview of the recent notice from California American Water Company's about the proposals outlined for their new water rate case. The proposals include consolidating with other service areas in Southern California or remaining stand-alone as a service area. He said the stand-alone proposal is less expensive than consolidation, although the figures in the notice show differently. He discussed the increases proposed, how they would affect customers, and how they compare to the two other water service providers in the Thousand Oaks area. He also mentioned that the proposed Cal Am rates do not reflect "pass through" costs, such as the cost of purchasing imported water and electricity, while the City's water service does include them. **Mr. Spurgin** said the City of Thousand Oaks testified at the California Public Utilities Commission against consolidation during the last rate case proposal and will submit testimony again this year. He announced there is a Notice of Public Participation hearing on February 4<sup>th</sup> and encouraged residents to attend to voice their opinions, and for those who cannot attend to write or call. He also said there is more information on the City's position at the City's website: [www.toaks.org](http://www.toaks.org)

**b. 101 Freeway Project, Darren Kettle, Ventura County Transportation Commission**

**Mr. Kettle** discussed the US-101 Improvement Project, showing where it would occur on the 101 Freeway, the schedule of the project, the purpose and need for the project, and the various ways the public can be involved in the process. He provided an analysis of alternatives for the project, including

traffic focused criteria, environmental criteria, engineering criteria, and HOV lanes. He said there will be further modeling analysis and evaluation of alternatives that must happen, as well as an Environmental Impact Report. He stressed the project is in the early stages and there will be additional opportunities for public input. **Scott Horn** and **Wendy Zimmerman** expressed concern about the possible addition of HOV lanes. Mr. Kettle said there are strict rules for reducing gas emissions in the State and construction of HOV lanes meets the State requirements. He said VCTC also has a separate study that is looking at bicycle/pedestrian improvements and passenger rail. He said for the improvement project to be eligible for some funding sources, such as the Solutions for Congested Corridors Program funded by the gas tax, the project must encourage transportation measures beyond single occupancy vehicles, such as HOV lanes, public transit, and carpooling in an effort to reduce greenhouse gases. **Ms. Zimmerman** asked if there could be more investment in green, round-the-clock public transportation in Ventura County. **Mr. Kettle** said that the challenge for public transportation is securing funding sources without a local funding source, such as Measure AA had it been approved by voters. He said it is possible to create a better public transportation system for Ventura County, but without a local funding source it will take time because the County cannot qualify for some funding sources through the State.

### **c. Graffiti Removal Intervention Team**

**Ed Villa, Sr.** said the graffiti reported on the Michael Drive bridge has been cleaned. **Vanise Terry** will forward photos to the Sheriff's Office.

## **8. Advisory Items**

### **a. MAC Update to the Board of Supervisors on January 21, 2020**

The MAC discussed recent accomplishments and activities in Casa Conejo to report to the Board of Supervisors at the special off-site meeting in Thousand Oaks on January 21, 2020. It was decided that Council member Wendy Zimmerman would give the report.

### **b. Approval of 2020 MAC meeting schedule**

**Wendy Zimmerman** made a motion to amend the proposed 2020 meeting schedule to cancel the May 20<sup>th</sup> date and reschedule to May 12<sup>th</sup> to accommodate for the annual Ride of Silence event also on May 20<sup>th</sup>. **Richard Gaz** seconded the motion, and it passed 4/0.

## **9. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks**

**Supervisor Linda Parks** announced there is an open seat and an alternate seat available on the MAC. She reported that County Transportation will be striping Lesser Drive from Dena Dr. to Jenny Dr. to enhance traffic safety due to its high street function and proximity to two schools. This was at the suggestion of a Casa Conejo resident. The work order was generated in mid-December and should be completed in approximately 8 weeks. She reported that the Draft General Plan Update Environmental Impact Report is available for review online at <http://vc2040.org> and Planning staff can return to discuss specific questions and requests from the MAC. Supervisor Parks announced that her office is accepting donations of coats for the One Warm Coats Drive, which will go to those in need who are served by the Ventura County Rescue Mission. She said the Board of Supervisors approved an urgency ordinance that implements a half-mile buffer for outdoor hemp farming from urban areas and sensitive sites like schools and parks. The only exemption would be for enclosed greenhouses growing non-flowering hemp plants. She said the Board also approved a reduction in glyphosate use in public areas such as parks, fire stations, and the airport. Finally, Supervisor Parks announced the Board of Supervisors will hold a special off-site meeting in Thousand Oaks on January 21st at 6:00 pm that will have several important items, including status reports from all District 2 MACs, the Woolsey Fire after-action report, recommendations from the Mental Health and Safety Task Force after the Borderline Bar and Grill mass shooting, and a report on the feasibility of Ventura County libraries to loan portable power stations to the medical needs population during public safety power shutoffs. At that meeting the Board will also recognize the Newbury Park High School cross country team for their achievement as State

and National champions, and honor retired Thousand Oaks Police Chief Tim Hagel for his 30 years of service to the community.

**10. Council Comments on Items not on the Agenda**

There were no Council comments.

**11. Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda**

**Mike Kelley** discussed a recent accident on Reino Road that claimed the life of an 83-year old woman. He asked if more crosswalks could be added in the community. **Vanise Terry** said she would pass his suggestion to the City’s Public Works Department for further review.

**Steve Cooley** asked if the County would add a crosswalk on the north and south sides of Michael Drive at Wendy Drive and paint “Keep Clear” in the middle of the intersection. **Ms. Terry** said she would follow up with the Transportation Department.

**12. Suggestions for Future Agenda Items**

- a. Crosswalks in the community
- b. Cal Am Water Company Rate Case Update

**13. Adjournment at 8:07 pm to Wednesday, March 18, 2020.**