



CASA CONEJO MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

*Members of the Council:*  
Chair Wendy Zimmerman  
Vice Chair Edward Villa, Sr.  
R. Scott Horn  
Richard Gaz

**CASA CONEJO MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES  
July 20, 2022**

**The Casa Conejo MAC held a Meeting Wednesday, July 20, 2022,  
6:00 p.m. via Zoom and Teleconference.**

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Flag Salute**

**Wendy Zimmerman** led the flag salute.

**3. Agenda Review**

No changes were made to the agenda.

**4. Approval of Minutes from May 18, 2022**

**Richard Gaz** moved to approve the minutes from May 18, 2022 with no changes. **Ed Villa, Sr.** seconded the motion and it was approved 5/0.

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

**California Highway Patrol Commander Heather Hoglund** reported that the new northbound scale was installed at the top of the Conejo Grade in July and Caltrans should be adding cement footings soon. She said the northbound scale is tentatively scheduled to open in a week. Construction on the buildings will begin soon on the southbound side in August, which should take about a month, and then move to the northbound side. CHP will still be patrolling the grade during these improvement projects.

**California Highway Patrol Office Ryan Ayers** reported no major incidents in the area since the last meeting other than speeding on Frankie Drive. He said the radar trailer will be on Wendy Drive in the next week between Borchard Road and the freeway. He announced that CHP is partnering with the Newbury Park High School girls' softball team for a Christmas in July Toy Drive to benefit the VCMC Pediatric Oncology Center. There is a drop-off box at the Moorpark CHP office and at a residence on Dena Drive and Alice Drive. He said CHP is beginning a program for older drivers called Age Well Drive Smart, and that CHP is partnering with the Simi Valley Police Department for the National Night Out on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. He said CHP started a recruitment campaign for those interested in law enforcement called "Join the CHP 1000" and they are looking for applicants. He said all upcoming events and information is also on their social media pages. Lastly, he said road rage incidents have increased and urged motorists to remain calm, not engage, and to call 9-1-1 to report unsafe driving, including vehicle license and descriptions, if possible. **Scott Horn** asked about new signage at Wendy Drive and Ruth Drive. **Officer Ayers** said he would look into it.

**Ventura County Sheriff Senior Deputy Christopher Jones** said the Sheriff's Office will also publicize recruitment for law enforcement on their social media pages and webpage. He reported on one incident of car vandalism that may have been targeted, and there has been a decrease in traffic incidents since they have stepped up patrol on Wendy Drive.

**6. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks**

**Supervisor Linda Parks** thanked the CHP for partnering with the community to help VCMC's Pediatric Oncology Center. She said the Ventu Park's Fire Safe Council recently had a community meeting about measures to increase fire safety, including no parking on streets on red flag days to ensure narrow streets are open for emergency vehicles and evacuation. She said CHP also agreed to partner on that with

enforcement. She said the Board of Supervisors approved the new County seal and will consider a new County flag with the seal. She discussed water usage reduction in communities and said trees are exempt. She said the Board approved the budget for Community Service Area No. 14 budget with no changes in fees, which includes street sweeping services for Casa Conejo, and the schedule for sweeping is on her webpage at [www.ventura.org/lindaparks](http://www.ventura.org/lindaparks) She said the Board also approved an amendment to their mission statement that addresses climate change as a guiding principle, and that many agencies are implementing climate change programs. Lastly, she talked about the recent Channel Walk that had a great turnout of community members and local officials, including City Council members and Planning Commissioners, presenters from Public Works and CSU Channel Islands, and local nursery Growing Works sold native drought plants.

#### **7. Patrick Maynard, Director of the Office of Emergency Services, Regarding Disaster Preparedness**

**Mr. Maynard** provided a seasonal preparedness update, including fuel moisture levels, rainfall totals, fire history, and fuel beds susceptible to fire in Ventura County. He also discussed recent changes in evacuation terminology from “mandatory” and “voluntary” evacuations to “Evacuation Order” for imminent danger and “Evacuation Warning” for danger not yet imminent. He urged residents to anticipate delays during evacuations and to leave early during fast-moving events. He said residents can sign up to get emergency alerts by registering at [www.vcalert.org](http://www.vcalert.org) or calling (805) 648-9283. Residents can also get up to date information at [www.vcemergency.com](http://www.vcemergency.com) This is a multi-agency website that has up-to-date information and an incident dashboard that also includes evacuations and public safety power shut offs (PSPS). He discussed reasons for PSPS by Southern California Edison (SCE) and how the Office of Emergency Services assists with getting information to residents when they happen. He said residents that need power for medical devices in the event of an outage can enroll in the SCE battery backup program. Lastly, he announced a newly revamped preparedness website at [www.readyventuracounty.org](http://www.readyventuracounty.org) that helps residents plan for disaster events. **Wendy Zimmerman** asked for information on SCE circuit zones. **Vanise Terry** said she would contact SCE for that information.

#### **8. Brian Barreto, California American Water, Regarding Water Restriction Update**

**Mr. Barreto** presented information on the State’s drought conditions from February 2022 and current conditions from July 2022, which illustrated that 80 percent of the State is in extreme drought, including the Ventura County region. He reviewed the service districts for southern California and water conservation measures, and the rules and guidelines mandated by the State. He said we moved from Stage 1 to Stage 2 back in March with a mandatory 3-day/week watering schedule, and in June to 1-day/week watering schedule on the weekend. He said low-flow and micro-spray systems are exempt from time limitation, and turf irrigation is permitted only on the allowed watering day. He said Cal Am prefers education over enforcement and went over ways they work with customers that have violations of the conservation measures. Lastly, he went over Cal Am’s conservation programs, services, and resources for customers.

**Richard Gaz** asked about golf course restrictions. **Mr. Barreto** said venues using recycled water are exempt from water restrictions. **Scott Horn** asked about potential additional conservation measures. **Mr. Barreto** said at this time he does not have information from the State Water Project, Metropolitan Water District and Calleguas Municipal Water District to speak about what could happen in September if drought conditions continue, but he would be happy to provide a later update. **Wendy Zimmerman** asked about watering individual pots. **Mr. Barreto** said that would be exempt as long as a hose is used and there is a positive shut-off nozzle. **Catharine Hogue** asked about fire danger from dry vegetation around homes. **Mr. Barreto** said the target goal is to limit watering lawns, and that trees and watering by hand are exempt.

#### **9. Council Comments on Items not on the Agenda**

**Scott Horn** commented on the County’s graffiti reporting portal online and said he was able to report graffiti in the channel by Borchard Park baseball field 1.

**Wendy Zimmerman** announced her bicycle group entered the Dos Vientos 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and won best group. She also said that Ventura County is in the high division for COVID, but as of today the

County has not stated whether it will be going back to indoor masking. **Supervisor Parks** said that would be up to the Public Health Director and has not yet been determined.

## **10. Public Comments on Items not on the Agenda**

There was a comment in the Chat that relayed a concern about the storm drain and water discharge on Jenny Drive. **Vanise Terry** said he will work with the resident directly.

## **11. Information Items**

### **a. Unity in the Community**

**Supervisor Parks** said a few years ago she organized a Unity in the Community event in Oak Park in response to antisemitic activity happening at the time to show support for victims of hate. She said in light of recent incidents on the Borchard overpass and an incident of church vandalism, she would like to do another event in Conejo Valley. She would like to have the main event be at the Borchard Park and discussed other details and activities if it works out.

**Wendy Zimmerman** commented that the event might be near the same time as the Casa Conejo community picnic and would like more information on what is being planned for Unity in the Community.

**Scott Horn** said he supported having the MAC get involved with the event.

### **b. Conejo Gateway Plaza Update**

**Vanise Terry** provided a report from the City on the Conejo Gateway Plaza project that construction drawings were submitted for plan check. She said the City can only share the final version of documents, and the items in plan check at this time are draft. Also, the City's approved Planning entitlements were provided, and per the architect, they intend to start construction on August 15th and complete the project by March 31, 2023. Lastly, the Building Permit application was submitted on behalf of Dunkin' Donuts.

**Scott Horn** asked if there is any further recourse at this point or whether it should be taken off the agenda as a standing item. **Wendy Zimmerman** suggested that the MAC revisit the issue when construction begins to assess if there are any problems to bring up to the City.

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

**Wendy Zimmerman** reported purple graffiti on power boxes near the bridge on Wendy Drive and Gerald Drive and on the new sign at the roll-thru.

**Ed Villa, Sr.** said he has removed graffiti from both the Wendy Bridge and Gerald Bridge, but it has slowed a bit recently. He said the GRIT is only covered to clean the bridges by their permit, which also means the GRIT would not be able to clean the cement washes mentioned by Scott Horn earlier. He said he will investigate the bridges Ms. Zimmerman reported.

### **d. Report from the Borchard Wetland Ad Hoc Subcommittee**

**Scott Horn** provided a history of Newbury Park development and the Borchard wetlands, including photos and video dating back to 1957. He shared information about the County's flood control easement, hydrology summary for the Arroyo Conejo, and a plan for its restoration as part of Calleguas Creek Watershed and Preservation Plan from 2000. He also discussed groundwater at high levels and soil suitable for keystone species. He discussed the debate on whether the Borchard property is a wetlands and presented information from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services that state it is designated as a wetland. He also showed photos of flooding in Casa Conejo and of the wetlands after rainfalls in February 2017 and December 2021. He also discussed the new drain project along the arroyo off Michael Drive near Wendy Drive. Lastly, he discussed ways to restore the wetlands that were mentioned at the recent Channel Walk and said he would be bring a proposal to a future meeting stating goals and ideas.

## **12. Advisory Items**

### **a. MAC Consideration of Sending a Comment Letter to the City of Thousand Oaks Regarding the Borchard Wetlands**

This item was moved to the next meeting agenda.

### **b. Casa Conejo Community Picnic**

This item was moved to the next meeting agenda.

## **13. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence reported.

**14. Future Agenda Items**

- a. Update on water restrictions from Cal Am
- b. Unity in the Community
- c. Borchard wetlands comment letter

**15. Adjournment at 8:44 pm to Wednesday, September 21, 2022.**