

SANTA ROSA VALLEY MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
April 11, 2018

**The Santa Rosa Valley MAC held a Meeting on Thursday, April 11, 2018
at 6:00 p.m. at the Rancho Santa Rosa Property Owners' Association Club House,
11701 East Las Posas Road, Camarillo, CA 93012**

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Philip Ochoa called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm. **Mark Burley, Ruth Means,** and **Philip Ochoa** were present. **Rosemary Allison** arrived after the meeting was called to order.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Ruth Means led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Minutes

Mark Burley moved to approve the minutes, and **Ruth Means** seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0, with **Kevin Cannon** abstaining.

4. Agenda Review

No changes were made to the agenda.

5. Public Safety Reports

Damon Wing, from Supervisor Linda Parks' office, reported that **CHP Officer Ben Susanka** said the CHP was responding to a resident's report of trucks on Santa Rosa Road early in the morning and will be patrolling during that time. **Ruth Means** requested that a crime statistics report be given by the Sheriff's Department at the next meeting.

6. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks

Supervisor Linda Parks reported that she is the Chair of the Ventura County Transportation Division, and they are now offering free bus fare for college students as a year-long pilot project. She also reported that there is a new transit line going from Simi Valley to Ventura that is free for the first couple of months. Supervisor Parks said she attended a conference and heard about disaster preparedness and recovery efforts and spoke with other supervisors about their experiences in northern California. As there is more development in the hinterlands, the more likely it is that we will see these types of devastating wild fires. A supervisor in Montecito pointed out that all the homes and lives lost were within 100 feet of the top of the bank of a creek that runs through there. She has asked that our County look at not only flood control and disaster response but also at debris flows which is a major issue that needs to be addressed.

7. Council Comments on Issues Not on the Agenda

Kevin Cannon said that he attended the General Plan Update focus meeting on transportation which included a lot of stakeholders. He noted that one of the big things that came up was opening up more bicycle lanes, and that there is a question of how much this will be encouraged since there had been pushback from agriculture interests. He said that it was interesting to see the communication between the bicycling and agriculture advocates on how to make things work out and stressed that everyone needs to compromise. **Supervisor Parks** said that one of the bicycle routes being looked at by the Transportation Commission would connect cities via Santa Rosa Road.

8. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

Tracy Faraci said that there are sycamore trees on Barranca Road with dead branches falling off that could land on someone or on someone's car. **Damon Wing** said that he would notify the County Transportation Department.

9. Advisory Items

a. Overview Presentation by the Ventura County Code Compliance Division

Doug Leeper, Director of Ventura County Code Compliance/Weights & Measures, gave a presentation about what the County Code Compliance Division does. They are the code enforcement entity for Planning & Zoning and Building & Safety. Code Compliance staff doesn't go out to look for violations but goes out on inspections when there are complaints. They don't accept anonymous complaints unless it's an urgent life or safety matter. Much of what they are working on deals with substandard housing and unpermitted uses that might not be allowed in a particular zone. The goal is to have voluntary compliance.

b. Groundwater Nitrate Impacts in the Arroyo Santa Rosa Basin Presentation by the Ventura County Watershed Protection District

Alma Quezada, Groundwater Specialist with the Ventura County Watershed Protection District, presented a broad overview of where nitrates come from and their impacts. She discussed the history of groundwater nitrate impacts in the Arroyo Santa Rosa Basin and said that once nitrates get into groundwater, they are difficult to remove to bring the water into compliance with state standards. The most common sources of nitrates are septic systems, animal waste and agricultural fertilizer, including legacy agricultural use. For the Arroyo Santa Rosa Basin, the largest source of contamination is from septic systems. Traditional septic tanks are not designed to remove nitrates. **Kim Loeb**, Groundwater Manager for the Ventura County Watershed Protection District, said that over the years there has been annual sampling of the wells that are available. The distribution of wells monitored changes over time based on property owners allowing access to sample, but they do know that septic systems are an ongoing source of nitrate to the groundwater. Alma Quezada noted that the state standard of 45 mg of nitrate per liter on a per acre-foot basis is equivalent to 27 pounds of nitrogen. The average cow can contribute 365 pounds of nitrogen annually. A horse can contribute 171 pounds of nitrogen each year, and a human 10 pounds. She said that it may seem like a lot when you consider the number of humans, but it should be remembered that cows and horses don't use septic tanks. **Kevin Cannon** asked what future requirements might be, a sewer system for example. **Tony Stafford**, General Manager of the Camrosa Water District, said that the reason the state sets limits on nitrates is, in addition to preventing blue baby syndrome, to protect the very young and the old from being harmed. Camrosa blends well water with imported water that is low in nitrates. The costs to blend imported water can be high if the nitrates in the groundwater are high. To keep this groundwater basin sustainable, there are several options to reduce nitrate inputs, ranging from retrofitting septic tanks to installing a sewer system to using reverse osmosis to capturing stormwater and letting that cleaner water go into the basin. Kim Loeb said that the Public Works Agency works with the Planning Division to help with zoning requirements so that any new development doesn't contribute additional nitrate above that maximum contaminant level.

c. Update by the Camrosa Water District on State Legislation and Potential Impacts on Water Bills

Tony Stafford, General Manager of the Camrosa Water District, gave an update on some of the items coming down from the state. Senate Bill 623 is a water tax bill for safe drinking water that would tax every water user in California. It would fund infrastructure, maintenance, and treatment for communities that can't afford to do those things. The Camrosa Water District

doesn't want to see this charge as a line item on a water bill or to be involved with collecting income information, so they have opposed this bill. They would prefer to see this come out of the state's General Fund.

d. Frequency of MAC Meetings

Kevin Cannon noted that a lot of time passes between MAC meetings when a meeting is canceled, and then MAC meetings can become lengthy and community members might not stay for the whole meeting. He asked that a special meeting, such as this April meeting, be scheduled during the intervening periods when there are items to be discussed. There was concurrence from the MAC.

10. Updates

a. Graffiti Removal Intervention Team (GRIT)

There were no reports of graffiti.

b. Santa Rosa Road Traffic Safety

Damon Wing reported that the Transportation Department was finalizing its contract with the consultant that will conduct signal synchronization data collection and gap analyses. MAC members wanted to make sure that platooning data would be collected and asked to see the scope of work for the consultant. Damon Wing said he would pass on the MAC's request to the Transportation Department and would send the MAC members a copy of the scope of work.

11. Future Agenda Items

- a. Decommissioning of Santa Rosa #2 Debris Basin
- b. Equestrian Signage on Santa Rosa Road

12. Adjournment to Thursday, May 17, 2018