

SANTA ROSA VALLEY MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
September 16, 2021

The Santa Rosa Valley MAC held a Meeting on Thursday, September 16, 2021
at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom Online/Teleconference

1. Call to Order

Chair Rosemary Allison called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. MAC members **Mark Burley, Amy Elliott, Michael Adams** and **Kevin Cannon** were present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Charlie and Cindy Beck**.

3. Approval of Minutes of July 15, 2021

Kevin Cannon made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted and **Mark Burley** seconded the motion. It was approved 5/0.

4. Agenda Review

There were no changes to the agenda.

5. Public Safety Report

Ventura County Sheriff's Senior Deputy Becky Purnell reported that catalytic converter thefts are still a problem all over Ventura County and reminded residents about the Etch and Catch program. She said the County is still experiencing residential burglaries perpetrated by the Chilean crews that often enter back patios or doors. She urged residents to report any suspicious activity such as cars driving and suspicious people walking on the trails. **Amy Elliott** thanked the Sheriff's Office for stopping cars about to race on Hill Canyon.

Lt. Jeremy Key, Moorpark CHP, reported some non-injury collisions and one DUI collision in which the driver was arrested. He said he reviewed the suggestions for signage on Santa Rosa Road and recommended the posting of the Safety Awareness Zone-Drive Safely, Safety Seatbelt, and Speed Enforced by Radar signs. He reported an uptick in highway shootings and said the CHP has formed a task force to address the situation. He urged caution on the freeway and to call the CHP should anything occur. He announced a Coffee-with-a-Cop on September 25, 10am to 12pm in Somis at the Somis Market.

CHP Lt. Heather Hogle introduced herself and said she recently took over command of the Conejo Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Facility on the 101-Freeway grade heading into Camarillo and the 118 Scales. She announced National Trucker Appreciation Week, September 12-18, and to send appreciation to those who bring goods to our communities.

Kevin Cannon inquired about rules for private firing ranges in Santa Rosa Valley. **Deputy Purnell** said she will follow up on rule in the rural areas and that residents can also call the dispatch number with any concerns.

6. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks

Supervisor Parks said the Ventura County Crop Report showed drop in hemp farming, but with the approval of Measure O, cannabis can be grown in fully enclosed greenhouses, which is primarily happening at the Houweling Nursery. She said the County received a grant to complete the bike lane on Santa Rosa Road and add 900 feet of sidewalk from Hidden Meadows to Santa Rosa Road for the Safe Route to School program. She thanked the Ventura County Probation crew for cleaning up Santa Rosa Road, and reported on Planning Division's approval of a minor adjustment permit to Laughing Dog Inn kennel reducing the number of dogs and adding a shade structure.

7. Fire Safety Panel Discussion

Presentations were given by the following speakers:

- **Ventura County Fire Chief Mark Lorenzen** provided an update on the local fire season and the County's participation in firefighting in northern California. He said the Fire

Department would conduct an internal study to understand the needs in Santa Rosa Valley and how to prioritize addressing issues in the community. The study should take about 6 months and they will report back to the MAC once completed.

- **Fire Prevention Supervisor Larry Williams** talked about Assembly Bill 38 (AB 38), the real estate disclosure requirements for defensible space inspections, and its impact on properties in high fire severity zone. He also discussed Ventura County Fire Department roadway and brush clearance requirements.
- **California Department of Insurance Compliance Officer Peter Meza** presented information on insurability in high fire risk areas, property rate regulation, current legislation and updates, including the potential for statewide standards for fire-resistant structures, non-renewal protection, help for under-insured, streamlining insurance adjustments, residential property bill of rights, and extending non-renewal notice prior to expiration. He clarified that the California Fair Plan is not a State plan, rather it is a group of self-sustaining private insurance companies pooled together and is overseen by the State but it does not contribute to the program.
- **Ventura County Regional Fire Safe Council Executive Director Elaine Himelfarb** provided information on what a Fire Safe Council does in the local communities to help make them safer through outreach, education, and events. She also discussed home hardening to protect homes, ranch plans, the benefits of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan and the County's "Ready, Set, Go!" Program.
- **Bell Canyon Fire Safe Council member Greg McHugh** discussed how to form a Fire Safe Council and Firewise community, build local partnerships, apply for 501c3 status and grant funding, and develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. He also talked about the activities and programs these organizations can offer to the community.

Video of the panel discussion and power point presentations are available at www.ventura.org/santarosamac

8. Action Items

a. MAC Recommendation, Access to the Blanchard Road Trail

Glenn Shepard, Ventura County Watershed Protection District Director, and Sergio Vargas, Watershed Protection District Deputy Director, reported on the Blanchard Road Drain where the Watershed Protection District (WPD) has an easement toward the Arroyo Santa Rosa. He said the property owner of the parcel adjacent has proposed to install a twenty-foot double-swing gate along the access road. The property ownership line bisects the storm drainage and there has been a permit submitted to WPD for approval of the gate. He said the gate must meet WPD standards to be approved. He said he understands the roadway there has been used for many years as an equestrian trail. **Mark Burley** commented that he has received communication that the property owners want to close the trail off. He said he offered to take the easement for the Santa Rosa Trails, Inc., which maintains and insures trails throughout the community, however communication with the owners was halted. A letter from property owners Guillermo and Anna Bustos was read into the record. **Mr. Burley** said the trail is part of the Santa Rosa Valley Trail Master Plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2015 and part of the County's General Plan, and he asked about the status of the permit and approval process through WPD. **Rosemary Allison** and **Mr. Burley** asked to see the language of the original easement. **Mr. Shepard** said the easement is for storm drainage and the roadway is there for access, and he's not aware of any limitations within their ability to not treat the permit as ministerial as long as the gate meets WPD standards. **Rosemary Allison** said the easement has been adopted into the County's General Plan trail plan system. **Mr. Vargas** said he understands the Blanchard Road section is part of a future trail plan. **Mr. Burley** said that is correct, the existing trails have an easement documents and future trails have prescriptive easements. **Mark Burley** referred to the Santa Rosa Valley Trail Plan for areas that are marked where easements are dedicated or prescriptive.

b. Redistricting in Ventura County

Supervisor Parks said the County is in the redistricting process to ensure populations are even among the five districts, and that District 2 is growing the slowest and District 3 is growing the fastest. She went over the criteria for redistricting and discussed some of the options suggested. **Mark Burley** suggested sending a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors that all of Santa Rosa Valley (SRV) covered by the MAC boundaries stay in one district and that the district remains in District 2 with Thousand Oaks. The MAC discussed including that SRV is adjoined with Thousand Oaks. **Kevin Cannon** suggested adding Tierra Rejada to District 2 and to the MAC boundaries because it often affects the SRV community. **Supervisor Parks** said during the last redistricting the property owners in Tierra Rejada felt more attached to District 4 and the Supervisor in office at the time. Resident **Cindy Keitel** said members of the public can draw and submit maps to participate in the redistricting process. **Vanise Terry** provided the website at www.ventura.org/redistricting and the dates of hearings at the Board of Supervisors: September 21, October 19, November 9 and November 16.

Mark Burley made a motion to have the MAC send a letter to the Board of Supervisors strongly recommending that Santa Rosa Valley covered by the MAC boundaries stay in its entirety in District 2, also including that SRV is a rural community with like needs, is contiguous to Thousand Oaks, shares land on the south side with Wildwood Park and Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency, and provides access to the City of Thousand Oaks' Hill Canyon Treatment Plant. **Rosemary Allison** seconded the motion, and it was approved 5/0.

9. Information Items

a. Bridlewood Debris Basin Removal Project and Equestrian Trail

Mark Burley reported two issues remaining with the trail, the first being the steepness of the west end of the trail that will be resolved by WPD with work starting on Sept 28th. He said the second issue involves getting the overlay easement for the trail, which is being worked out with WPD, Bridlewood HOA, and homeowners. He said the document has been reviewed by County Counsel and is waiting approval from the Bridlewood HOA. Resident **Cindy Keitel** asked when the trail will be unlocked. **Mr. Burley** said the trail will remain locked until the easement document has been signed. He said he understands there is a safety element as well with students who also use the trail to get to the school.

10. Council Comments on Issues Not on the Agenda

Mark Burley announced a Halloween Haunt Horse Show on October 24th at Santa Rosa Valley Park organized by the Stepping Stones Riding Program, which is a charity organization that provides riding and horsemanship lessons to underprivileged children. He would like people to help and support this community event.

Kevin Cannon said he will continue to research information on Safety Awareness Zones. He announced a Free Landfill Day on Sunday for SRV residents at the Simi Valley Landfill from 9am – 3pm. Lastly, he said the Resource Conservation District (RCD) Board, on which he sits, has initiated more projects that include environmental and fire issues. For example, he said they have a workshop for fire proofing homes on September 25th and another on September 26th to create pollinator habitats along the Santa Clara Wildlife Corridor in Fillmore. He said the Santa Monica Mountains RCD is trying to expand in Ventura County, so he is planning to bring a letter of support for Ventura County RCD's effort to fight any takeover.

11. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

There were no public comments.

12. Written Communications

There were no written communications.

13. Future Agenda Items

- a. Updates on Accessory Dwelling Units, Ventura County Redistricting, Bridlewood Debris Basin, Resource Conservation District support letter
- b. Defensible space

c. Dark Sky Overlay Zone

14. Adjournment at 9:26 pm to Thursday, November 18, 2021.