



SANTA ROSA VALLEY ADVISORY
COUNCIL

Members of the Council:
Chair Rosemary Allison
Vice Chair Kevin Cannon
Michael Adams
Mark Burley
Amy Elliott

SANTA ROSA VALLEY MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
January 20, 2022

The Santa Rosa Valley MAC held a Meeting on Thursday, January 20, 2022
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**, **Kevin Cannon**, **Amy Elliott** and **Michael Adams** were present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Amy Elliot**.

3. Selection of MAC Chair and Vice Chair

Mark Burley moved to nominate **Rosemary Allison** as Chair of the MAC and **Amy Elliot** seconded the motion. It was approved 5/0. **Mark Burley** moved to nominate **Kevin Cannon** as Vice Chair and **Rosemary Allison** seconded the motion. It was approved 5/0.

4. Agenda Review

Item 6 was removed from the agenda.

5. Approval of Minutes of November 18, 2021

Mark Burley moved to approve the minutes as submitted and **Amy Elliot** seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 5/0.

6. Accessory Dwelling Units Update from Ventura County Planning Division

Removed from agenda.

7. Public Safety Reports

CHP Lt. Jeremy Key reported on non-injury collisions in the area and announced services that CHP provides to the community, including free child seat installations, VIN appointments to register vehicles, and ongoing Start Smart classes for new drivers. He also reminded drivers to safely move to the right shoulder of the road if the car is disabled and to stay out of the center divider. He said if it's necessary to be in the center divider lane, to remain in the vehicle and call 9-1-1 so an officer can assist. He said the CHP has a freeway service patrol between 6-9 am and 3-7 pm, free of charge, where CHP will assist disabled vehicles. **Kevin Cannon** asked if the Sheriff's' Department can give traffic citations and **Lt. Key** said they have the same ability as CHP to give traffic citations if they see a violation.

CHP Commander Heather Hogle said construction on the southbound scales on the 101 freeway Conejo Grade will tentatively begin in March, and the northbound side will begin in May. She said construction will continue likely through the end of the year but should not affect traffic. She said residents can report any commercial traffic if noted in areas they should not be and that residents can provide ideas of where they think CHP teams can offer additional enforcement.

Ventura County Sheriff Senior Deputy Claudia Holden introduced herself to the MAC and community and said she's happy to be assigned to Santa Rosa Valley. She responded to Mr.

Cannon's question regarding traffic citations saying they do enforce this area with two deputies, especially by the school, and if they see a violation, they will give a citation. She reported on some vehicle thefts in the area, including items stolen from unlocked vehicles and a stolen vehicle. She reminded residents to always lock their vehicles, even though the community is generally safe, and to bring mail in as there has been some mail theft in the area as well, particularly on Vista Arroyo, Ridge Drive, Summit Circle and Vista Grande. **Michael Adams** thanked the Sheriff's Office for their response to his recent call regarding a suspicious car.

8. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks

Supervisor Parks announced the upcoming Community Beautification Event on May 7th at Santa Rosa Technology Magnet School where residents can bring bulky items, green waste, and e-waste for disposal. She said the Transportation Commission has appointed a new Executive Director, Martin Erickson, and they are currently doing an Unmet Needs community meeting to understand local transit needs. She said residents can get information and also complete an online survey at www.goventura.org. She discussed an article in the Acorn Newspaper about the Growing Works Nursery and the park that will be going in at the location. She said the Planning Division will come back at a future meeting to discuss Accessory Dwelling Units. She also discussed how Fire Safe Councils can help promote fire safety in a community. Lastly, she said there was news that the CPUC will move away from efforts to disincentivize solar roofs.

Rosemary Allison thanked Supervisor Parks for backing undergrounding power lines in Santa Rosa Valley, and **Mark Burley** asked if there are plans to continue farther down Santa Rosa Road. **Supervisor Parks** suggested the MAC could send a letter encouraging SCE to continue their efforts on undergrounding. **Kevin Cannon** mentioned monthly public sales of drought tolerant plants at Growing Works.

9. Presentation on a Potential Casting Pond at Santa Rosa Park

Karen Hall, Earl Arnold and **Candice Meneghin** with the Sespe Fly Fishers provided background on Sespe Fly Fishers and information about casting ponds, including their purpose, dimensions, and a concept for constructing a .5-acre casting pond in Ventura County at the Santa Rosa Valley Park. It was noted that the park is an ideal location because it has available flat land, near the Conejo Creek, has existing facilities and utilities, reclaimed water, and parking accessibility. Once the location is confirmed, the Sespe Fly Fishers would raise funds for its construction, with an estimated cost of approximately \$750,000. Ms. Hall discussed outdoor education opportunities for youth, underserved youth, and veterans, and the types of programs that could be available to all in the community. She also mentioned organizations that are supportive of a casting pond in Ventura County. **Supervisor Parks** pointed out that there was a recent article in the Acorn Newspaper on fly fishing and asked whether there is access to water to make the pond. **Rosemary Allison** expressed concern about mosquitoes if it has standing water. **Mr. Arnold** said there are ways to mitigate mosquitoes with a biologic, such as a benign bacterium in the water that eats mosquito larvae but is harmless to animal life, as well as keeping algae to a minimum and changing the water four times a year. **Kevin Cannon** said he's unsure whether the creek water is reclaimed. **Tony Stafford** from Camrosa Water District commented that they have water at the Hill Canyon facility but it's non-potable surface water, not reclaimed water, which comes from the creek and has sediment in it. He encouraged them to understand where the water would come from as a priority. **Jeri Cooper**, County Parks Manager, said the County does receive an allocation for water from Camrosa and that the restrooms facilities at the park are on a septic tank. She said the County Parks Department has also met with the Sespe Fly Fishers and are open to the casting pond concept, but they would be very strategic about the development, construction, and continued maintenance of the project in the park. She said they would like to see more details on the specifications of the pond and commitment of the fundraising entities for the project. She also said the County Parks Department does not currently have any forthcoming development plans for Santa Rosa Valley Park and will return to

the MAC at a later date to provide a list of options, including this project. **Ms. Meneghin** said there is a willingness from Sespe to pay for water from the County's allocation from Camrosa and they would empty into the septic tank. She said while they have looked at other locations, Santa Rosa Valley Park had the most features needed for the project. She said their Board did a site visit and hopes they can move forward as the County Parks Department works on their strategic plan for the park. **Ms. Hall** said that if there is a commitment from the County, perhaps in the form of an MOU, then they can begin fundraising for the project and take next steps regarding water. **Supervisor Parks** said the County Parks Department can come back to the MAC with their strategic plan and discuss all options for the park and funding. She said since the casting pond was not part of the recent community survey, at this point the County is only looking for whether it would be something the MAC could support as an option. **Rosemary Allison** expressed support for the project. **Kevin Cannon** commented that this project could remove options for other projects, and he would like to see the timeline for understanding all the options for the park. **Mark Burley** commented that the project is an interesting option for the park due to its rural nature, but has concerns about water supply, water use, and water disposal through a septic tank system or into the creek. He also expressed concern for long-term funding to maintain the project. **Michael Adams** said he would like to maintain the rural nature of the park and feels this project would keep in line with that atmosphere. He asked if the ponds are stocked with fish and whether the pond could be a free form shape rather than rectangular. **Mr. Arnold** said it could be a kidney shape or some other organic shape as long as there are sufficient lines for casters to not bump into each other. He said more information about Sespe Fly Fishers can be found online at www.sespeflyfishers.org. **Amy Elliot** expressed support for the project and said other park departments that have ponds could be contacted to see how it's working out there. **Ms. Hall** encouraged residents to visit the Pasadena Casting Pond because it has a natural feeling in the park. **Supervisor Parks** said an MOU would need approval by the Board of Supervisors brought to them by the Parks Department. **Kevin Cannon** moved to recommend support of the Sespe Fly Fishers casting pond project in concept and recommend they work with the County Parks Department. **Rosemary Allison** seconded the motion, and it was approved 5/0.

10. Information Items

a. Camrosa Water District Update

Tony Stafford, General Manager of Camrosa Water District, provided information on the California drought as of January 13, 2022 and precipitation as of January 10, 2022. He said while the drought situation is not good, it's better than it was with the recent rainfall and forecasts are still below normal rainfall. He said imported water allocated through Metropolitan Water District (MWD) has increased from zero to 15% which means projects with water demands can now be met through October. However, the implementation of no outdoor water use is not off the table yet and the process of water allocations has not been defined yet. He said the State rules for saving water are still in effect. **Kevin Cannon** stated his concern about no outdoor watering for residents and the possibility of State penalties if local water resources are developed. **Mr. Stafford** said Camrosa has pushed hard against any penalties because it would disincentivize local projects, and that regulations do not include non-potable water. **Mark Burley** asked if the groundwater in the Santa Rosa Valley basin has been affected. **Mr. Stafford** said they have stopped pumping that well because they are getting ready to break ground on a new treatment site. Since the wells haven't been pumped in a while that has helped bring the level up, and that the well on East Las Posas is in the process of a pilot project to prevent air in the water so it's now running at less than maximum capacity.

Rosemary Allison mentioned the State is limiting homeowners to 55 gallons of water per person/per day for indoor use. **Michael Adams** commented on dying plants with zero outdoor water allocations and asked if the goal is to have local water only. **Mr. Stafford** said they would like to have that capability and discussed the pressure zones in Santa Rosa Valley and using local resources. He said Camrosa is also writing an RFP to do a system-wide flushing for sediment. Resident **Jen Bell** asked about how the critical impact status of groundwater relates to construction of homes under the new Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) laws, and if Camrosa has a say in the process. **Mr. Stafford** said they are not involved with ADUs, but in order for Camrosa to provide water service, a water will-serve must be given by Camrosa. They currently have a permanent moratorium regarding development and water use, and mitigation measures must be provided, including a water budget plan. He said their Board decided that new developments cannot affect existing rate-payers in terms of water reliance or costs, including residential use for ADUs.

b. Status of Bridlewood Debris Basin and Equestrian Trail

Mark Burley reported there are still legal issues being discussed between the County and the Bridlewood HOA regarding the easement. He said there is a lawsuit between the County and a homeowner that could also potentially be slowing the process down. He said currently the new trail installed by the County is ready but still locked for now. **Rosemary Allison** asked how the decommissioned debris basin functioned during the recent rains. **Mr. Burley** said it all worked fine during the heavy rains and not having the debris basin did not affect downstream. Resident **Ken Beaunus** commented that the recent rains did not give as much flow as previous heavy rains years ago, but the last rain was not a 100-year flood so it's hard to consider whether it is working perfectly since there was not a large volume of water in the regulatory floodways.

11. Action Items

a. Discussion of Potential MAC Boundary Expansion

This item was tabled to a future agenda.

b. Approval of 2022 MC Meeting Schedule

Rosemary Allison moved to approve the 2022 meeting calendar as submitted. **Mark Burley** seconded the motion, and it was approved 5/0. **Vanise Terry** said the calendar would be posted online at www.ventura.org/santarosavalley/mac

12. Council Comments on Issues Not on the Agenda

Rosemary Allison said MAC members have been asked to attend recent community meetings, but County Counsel advised that MAC members should not attend the meetings if the issue is to come before the MAC to avoid any Brown Act violations. Also, if a MAC member does engage in a meeting, they would have to recuse themselves from voting on the issue. She also mentioned deterioration of the west end of Presilla Road that needs repaving.

Mark Burley said there is a new law regarding where to dispose of compostable garbage and that it is confusing and would like to have clarity for the community. **Vanise Terry** said other MAC's have brought up this confusion and that for now County Integrated Waste Management Division has said rules are per service provider. She said E.J. Harrison's said it's alright to have food disposed of in compostable bags. She said she will check back with the County and E.J. Harrison's and provide further clarification as the program gets underway.

Kevin Cannon asked for follow up on the reflective banner around street signs. He also commented on AB 43 regarding changes to traffic safety laws and AB 773 slow streets and street closures. Currently the County is waiting for Caltrans to incorporate the new laws into the State manual and will present information to the MAC at a later date.

Michael Adams said that Transportation reported on the road improvements about six months ago and that the yellow borders are still about a year and half to two years out.

13. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

Warren Nelson discussed the AirBnB and large events happening at a property on Presilla Drive, as well as suspicious activity also at the location. He said he hosted a meeting with neighbors discussing their concerns about non-residential businesses going into the area and their hopes that an overlay regulating them can be added.

Teresa Parker commented she was told that Code Compliance is not able to assist regarding the Presilla Drive property without an overlay.

Vanise Terry read written comments submitted by **Eric Peterson** regarding Southern California Edison and the difficulty with power shut-offs in the Yucca Drive area and lack of proper notification. She also read a statement from **Maria Nelson** about wanting to get rid of Air BnBs and having a TRU overlay in Santa Rosa Valley.

14. Written Communications

There were no written communications.

15. Future Agenda Items

- a. County Planning Division Issues: Accessory Dwelling Units Update, Temporary Rental Unit Overlay Zone, Clarification on rules for large event venues
- b. MAC Boundary Expansion
- c. SCE update on power lines and pavement after work
- d. Letter to SCE regarding undergrounding power lines
- e. Options for Santa Rosa Valley Park
- f. Dark Sky Overlay Zone

16. Adjournment at 8:40 pm to Thursday, March 17, 2022.