



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**  
**September 15, 2022**

**The Santa Rosa Valley MAC held a Meeting on Thursday, September 15, 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. **Vice Chair Kevin Cannon** and **MAC members Michael Adams, Mark Burley** and **Amy Elliott** were present.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance** was led by **Earl Arnold**.

**3. Agenda Review**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**4. Approval of Minutes of July 21, 2022**

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

**5. Public Safety Reports**

**CHP Commander Heather Hoglund** reported that the Conejo Scales are now functional and trucks started using them on July 25<sup>th</sup>. She said Caltrans will begin construction on September 26<sup>th</sup> on the southbound side, which will hopefully be finished in November and tentatively start construction on the northbound side the end of this year or in January.

**Sheriff's Senior Deputy Dustin Heersche** introduced himself to the MAC. He said he works out of the Moorpark Sheriff's Station and will be the new beat coordinator for Santa Rosa Valley.

**Ventura County Sheriff Senior Deputy Purnell** said there is a continuing problem with vehicle burglaries at the Santa Rosa Valley Park - Hill Canyon area. She said signs have been posted reminding residents to remove valuables and lock cars, and cameras have been installed. She reported that agricultural theft is happening countywide and the fields off Santa Rosa Road recently had some equipment stolen. Lastly, she said there has been some mail theft in the area and reminded residents to bring in mail and packages as soon as possible.

**CHP Lt. Jeremy Key** reported one non-injury crash on Santa Rosa Road since the last MAC meeting. He said CHP recently mitigated a loud exhaust complaint and worked with the Sheriff's Office on that. He said they are still continuing to get complaints of illegal passing using the center medians and have cited some motorists. He said CHP has seen an influx of false titles and people unknowingly purchasing vehicles that were stolen, mostly being purchased through social media or online sites. He cautioned residents to be careful and that residents can call the CHP with information on a vehicle to see if it's stolen. **Rosemary Allison** brought up a concern about increased truck traffic on Santa Rosa Road. **Lt. Key** said they have a new officer currently in training that will patrol the area.

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

**Supervisor Parks** thanked Ventura County Probation Agency's Work Release Crew that completed a cleanup on Santa Rosa Road on August 27 and 28, with special thanks to Robert Barna and Sarah Tobias with Probation and Rudy Munoz with Public Works for coordinating the

event. She said she received a complement to Public Works staff from a resident regarding quick and efficient repairs on Santa Rosa Road at Penelope Place. She commended Jose Hernandez, Jose Rodriguez, Joe Valdivia, Eric Brockway, Ivan Betancort, Rudy Munoz and Tony Valenzuela. She also thanked Fire Prevention Specialist Larry Williams, who went above and beyond by going out to personally speak to residents about their brush clearance concerns. She reported that the Board of Supervisors approved a fee waiver requested by the City of Thousand Oaks for construction of the Conejo Canyon Vehicle/Pedestrian Bridge by the Hill Canyon Treatment Plant. She commended the great collaboration between the City, COSCA and the County. She said the Board also honored the life and legacy of Supervisor Carmen Ramirez and commented on the profound impact she has had on so many people throughout her career. She said the Board approved guidelines for use of the new County flag and talked about honoring the creator of the first County flag in 1976. She said she has asked Transportation to look into a request to add safety signs for cyclists on Santa Rosa Road, and that the Santa Rosa Road Bike Project will begin the design phase in January 2023 and construction in late 2023. She said the Watershed Protection District will be doing additional improvements at the Santa Rosa Road No. 2 Debris Basin, including erosion repairs on the channel bed, banks, and access roads, but they are not substantial repairs.

#### **7. Work Session with County Parks Department on the Santa Rosa Valley Regional Park**

**Colter Chisum, County Parks Department Director**, said park usage has increased since pre-COVID and they are now looking for new grant funds and provided an update on park projects in Ventura County. He said the County is continuing its partnership with the City of Thousand Oaks for the parking fee-offset. He said the park has typically less than a dozen bookings at the equestrian arena and they are looking at ways to activate that more and are still working with Karen Hall and Earl Arnold on the possibility of adding a fly fishing casting pond, similar to a fly fishing amenity in Pasadena. He provided photos of a potential location of the casting pond and discussed possible shapes of the pond. He said the horse arena is not large enough for big-scale events and suggested downsizing the parking for the arena to create room outside of the floodway for the pond.

The MAC inquired about what the average intake of visitors would be for the casting pond and if there could be an additional use for the pond, where water would come from and if there had been communication with Camrosa Water District, and whether the Parks Department would be coming back with a 5-year plan including other park use options. The MAC also expressed concern about any interference or reduction of the equestrian facilities and parking.

**Earl Arnold** and **Karen Hall** with Sespe Fly Fishers said in Pasadena the pond has multiple uses and can include local groups and classes in addition to fly fishers. Also, there are fly fishing clubs throughout Ventura that would use it, as well as regular fishers. Ms. Hall said the Sespe Fly Fishers would raise the funds for the pond and maintain it as long as there is a memorandum of understanding with the County stating they're able to use it.

**Mr. Chisum** said he has not yet worked with Camrosa Water District regarding water nor with Watershed Protection District for discharge permitting because he is still learning about what would be involved for a casting pond. Regarding the equestrian facilities, he said they are looking at usage trends. He also said any forthcoming projects would fit in their priority list behind grant funded projects.

**Kevin Cannon** mentioned that residents also use the arena for other activities that may not be paid events and suggested a fundraiser event. **Mark Burley** commented that the County does not support the parks and as a result must rely on income from parks to maintain them. He said while there may not be fees from the arena, it is used a lot by residents. He also said that the parking lot needs to remain large for equestrian events that bring in trucks with horse trailers.

**Amy Elliott** said there should be better advertising of the arena. **Rosemary Allison** said the main priority is to have the water source identified through Camrosa and would prefer they use non-potable water. **Vanise Terry** said she would provide contact information for Camrosa to Ms. Hall. **Michael Adams** said he would like to see the rural feel of the park maintained. **Mr. Chisum** noted that before returning to the MAC he would work towards a full 5-year vision for park improvements, find more ways to activate the current equestrian facility, work with the Sespe

Flyfishers to understand water issues for a possible casting pond, and look at other possible park uses. **Supervisor Parks** said Ventura County is the only county that does not support funding its parks and she disagrees with that policy. **Mr. Burley** suggested adding a comment letter from the MAC regarding park funding to a future agenda.

## **8. Information Items**

### **a. Arroyo Santa Rosa Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency and Groundwater Sustainability Plan**

**Mark Burley** reported the State has mandated that all groundwater basins must have a sustainability agency to create a sustainability plan for how groundwater would continue into the future. He said the Arroyo Santa Rosa Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency is a joint agency with Camrosa Water District and the Public Works Agency and has been analyzing the groundwater in the Santa Rosa Valley basin. He reported the first stakeholder engagement meeting was held on August 1<sup>st</sup> and that since 1965 water levels have been steady, possibly due to water running into the groundwater from the Hill Canyon Water Treatment Plant and estimated they would remain steady until 2070. However, nitrate levels have been increasing and by 1990s the levels passed the Federal limit of 45mg per liter for nitrates allowed in groundwater. He said in 2007 some wells were still exceeding 100mg per liter for nitrates in the groundwater. The sustainability plan will provide a recommendation to reduce the nitrates in the groundwater and identify where the nitrates are coming from. He said this groundwater is used for drinking water in Santa Rosa Valley, which is diluted by Camrosa to make it potable. **Kevin Cannon** mentioned learning about the rejection of sustainability plans by the State except for Fox Canyon at a meeting coordinated by Assemblymember Steve Bennett. **Mr. Burley** said his understanding is that they have not submitted it to the State yet and that it will be submitted early next year. **Rosemary Allison** said she would send information she received regarding a 5-year plan by Governor Newsom with funds for increasing the storability of water and adding desalination plants. She also discussed alternative water conservation methods, landscaping during the drought, and the need to keep trees alive for fire safety. **Amy Elliott** said she would provide drought tolerant landscaping alternatives also for distribution.

## **9. Action Items**

### **a. MAC Comment Letter to the Board of Supervisors Regarding proposed ADU/JADU Ordinance**

**Mark Burley** provided information from the Planning Commission's meeting in August regarding new laws from the State for accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and junior accessory dwelling units (JADUs). He said he sent a letter to the Planning Division with questions about the process for ADUs and asked how they will stop any increase of nitrate pollution in the groundwater with a potential increase in housing in Santa Rosa Valley. He reported that Planning has not yet provided answers to his questions and the agenda item for ADU/JADUs has been rescheduled on the Board's agenda from October to possibly November. He said he would like for the MAC to provide a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors but will need the updated information from Planning Division to do so. He also requested that his email with questions to Planning be forwarded to the MAC.

**Jen Bell** commented on the process moving forward and the Planning Commission's misperception about the will-serve letters versus discharge of wastewater into the groundwater. **Supervisor Parks** commented that Planning staff understood that the new State legislation precluded them from using the groundwater as a reason for limiting ADUs, but they are now reviewing it again before going to the Board of Supervisors and could possibly go to the Planning Commission if changes are significant. **Rosemary Allison** said the item should be postponed until the MAC receives answers to Mr. Burley's questions and further information on the updated ADU/JADU ordinance.

### **b. MAC Consideration of a Temporary Rental Unit (TRU) Overlay in Santa Rosa Valley to Restrict TRUs**

**Supervisor Parks** said the only Temporary Rental Unit (TRU) overlay restricting TRUs is in Ojai. She said the Lake Sherwood community has also expressed an interest in having a TRU overlay

and suggested Santa Rosa Valley could join Lake Sherwood moving forward. She said the first step would be to ask the Board of Supervisors to have Planning staff add the overlay to their list of priorities. She said the details of the ordinance could be discussed when Planning brings it back to the Board to prioritize. The MAC discussed aspects of the Ojai TRU overlay, such as permitted guest houses for homeshare situations, restricting “party house” rentals to protect the community, and the challenges faced in Ojai getting the overlay approved.

**Mark Burley** made a motion to recommend that the Board of Supervisors add a TRU Overlay to restrict TRUs within the Santa Rosa Valley MAC boundaries. The motion was seconded by **Michael Adams** and approved 5/0.

#### **10. Council Comments on Issues Not on the Agenda**

**Michael Adams** updated the MAC on his research into flight paths for LAX over Santa Rosa Valley. He contacted the FAA and said the flight path over Santa Rosa Valley is not only a noise issue but also a detriment to the local wildlife. He also reported an issue with a lighted sign at Yucca and a road issue on E. Las Posas to Public Works.

**Mark Burley** announced that the two MAC members up for election this year, himself and Amy Elliott, were unopposed and will not be on the ballot.

**Rosemary Allison** asked about the Boeing settlement agreement for cleaning up their site. She also commented on the undergrounded power lines in Santa Rosa Valley. **Supervisor Parks** provided an update regarding Boeing and said she continues to push for cleanup standards.

**Amy Elliott** also commented on the undergrounded power lines by SCE.

**Kevin Cannon** provided an update on the recent fire safety collaborative meeting that included many countywide stakeholders. He said they want to reach out to communities to understand what they need for fire safety and outlined countywide projects the group has planned.

**Supervisor Parks** mentioned the Oak Park Fire Safe Council will be holding a town hall on October 6<sup>th</sup> that anyone can attend. She also said the Board is looking at updating Building and Safety codes to ensure fire safety. She also mentioned that the Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council also provides benefits to all areas of the county.

#### **11. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda**

**Teri Hargrove** thanked Supervisor Parks for helping to organize the Santa Rosa Road cleanup up. She said the parking lot at Santa Rosa Valley Park should stay the same size because it was needed when she ran the 4H program and said that perhaps if the process was more user friendly, it would be used more often. She commented on the Dark Sky and TRU overlay and said that perhaps neighbors should talk to each other if there are issues, rather than look to blanket solutions. Lastly, she commented that safety and power shut-offs are big issues and perhaps more of a priority in the community.

**Jen Bell** thanked Mark Burley and the MAC as a whole for all the work they do for the community.

#### **12. Written Communications**

There were no written communications.

#### **13. Future Agenda Items**

- a. MAC Comment Letter Regarding County ADU/JADU Ordinance
- b. Residential Treatment Centers in Santa Rosa Valley
- c. MAC Comment Letter Regarding Parks Department Funding Policy
- d. Dark Sky Overlay Zone

#### **14. Adjournment at 8:52 pm to Thursday, November 17, 2022.**

*The meeting was closed in memory of Supervisor Carmen Ramirez upon her untimely passing.*