

SANTA ROSA VALLEY MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
November 15, 2007

The Santa Rosa Valley MAC held a meeting on Thursday, November 15, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the Santa Rosa Valley Club House on 11701 E. Las Posas Road, Camarillo, CA 93012

1. Call to order

Janis Gardner called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. MAC members Ruth Means, Don Shubert and Mark Burley were present. Rosemary Allison was absent.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Fred Meyer.

3. Agenda Review

The agenda was revised to move Item 9a. to follow Supervisor Parks' comments.

4. Approval of Minutes

Mark Burley moved to approve the minutes as submitted and Don Shubert seconded the motion. Motion carried 4/0.

5. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks

Supervisor Parks told the MAC that the move to new office space at 2967 Thousand Oaks Boulevard is complete and that residents should feel free to drop by any time. Gratitude for our dedicated fire fighters expertise was expressed and two publications regarding fire safety were made available: the Fall 2007 issue of *Backdraft*, (the Ventura County Fire Department newsletter) and a flier entitled "Commitment to Defense . . . Protect Your Home Against Wildfire." Residents can contact Supervisor Parks' office if they would like additional copies. In addition, a publication entitled *The Topanga Disaster Guide* was circulated, noting that the booklet contains critical preparedness information that can be used by all Southern California residents. *The Topanga Disaster Guide* can be accessed on-line at www.topangasurvival.org.

6. Public Comments

Officer Randy Hosking reported that from October 1 to October 31, 2007 there were 8 traffic collisions on Santa Rosa Road. During the same time period in 2006, there were 5 collisions. From January 1 to November 15, 2007, there were 39 crashes. Officer Hosking also reported that he is paying particular attention to the Santa Rosa Road ordinance which prohibits 3 and 4 axle trucks from using the road, excepting local deliveries.

Ron Means addressed the parameters of the rubberized asphalt work. He said that the pavement was to be moved .3 miles west and felt that the adjusted eastern end was somewhat short. He remembered that the pavement extended to Andalusia East. Mr. Means also noted that the County did a great job of fixing the bridge with the newly laid asphalt.

7. Council Comments on Issues Not on the Agenda

Don Shubert noted that he attended the October Oak Park MAC meeting and that Dan Wall of Ventura County Emergency Medical Services was a speaker at that meeting. Don suggested that the Santa Rosa Valley MAC invite Mr. Wall to address the Santa Rosa valley residents at a MAC meeting as soon as the CERT classes are complete. Subject matter that is of interest to residents includes the hazards of wood chips, flame-retardant sprays, emergency phone tree set-up and related communication options, as well as other fire prevention "show and tell" items.

Mark Burley said he had reviewed Ventura County's Speed Hump policy that was forwarded by Supervisor Parks' office and noted that it did not seem particularly applicable to the Santa Rosa Valley. He explained that the December MAC meeting would address the revised flood plain maps. He learned two weeks ago that the revised map used by the Watershed Protection District

and the maps on the County website were different. Supervisor Parks set up a meeting among Rosemary Allison, a FEMA consultant and Mr. Burley to discuss the issue. He said there is a distinction between the floodway and the floodplain, but that residents cannot determine where their lots are located on the map. The MAC requested that lot overlays and the floodways be added to the flood zone maps so residents can locate their property on the new map.

8. Action Items:

a. Design Plans for Lexington Hills/Moorpark Road

Ben Beazley of the Lexington Hills Homeowners' Association presented a revised plan for the Lexington Hills/Moorpark Road intersection drawing prepared by PWA several months ago, noting that the HOA members did not feel that an additional lane on Moorpark Road would make the intersection safer for residents attempting to enter and exit Lexington Hills Lane. In lieu of adding a lane and reconfiguring the entryway, residents requested Bott's dots, re-striping of the "DO NOT BLOCK INTERSECTION" roadway markings and re-wording of the sign on Moorpark Road to read: "Right Lane – Lexington Hills Only."

The MAC directed that the Lexington Hills plans be returned to Butch Britt to be redrawn and approved.

9. Information Items

a. Report from County on Lot Sizes and Septic Tank Information

Robert Gallagher and Darrell Siegrist of the Environmental Health Division and Sergio Vargas and Gerhardt Hubner of Watershed Protection District attended to present information on lot sizes in the Santa Rosa Valley as they relate to groundwater nitrate levels from septic systems and keeping livestock, including horses.

Robert Gallagher, Deputy Director of the Environmental Health Division, said that all septic system installations are reviewed by them. The land use process is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and the County review must evaluate impacts to the existing environment before approving subdivisions. Ventura County has monitored the nitrate contamination of Santa Rosa Valley groundwater for decades. Their job is to mitigate the already high level of nitrates by limiting additional sources from septic systems and livestock. By controlling lot density to 1-5 acres in size and using a formula for dilution that includes soil permeability, rainfall, and water usage, there is good potential for adequate mitigation. Mr. Gallagher explained that in the 1980's, lots were held to a 1 acre minimum. Today requirements have been adjusted to 2.875 acres for the addition of 1 septic system, with an additional .5 acre requirement for owning a horse.

Gerhardt Hubner added that the data goes back many years and told the MAC that nitrate levels have increased during the last two years. Most of the wells in the Santa Rosa Valley have nitrate levels above the drinking water standard. Responding to questions from residents, Mr. Hubner said that he did not believe Hill Canyon is related to the rising level of nitrates. Nitrate levels are a localized problem. The aquifer is 200-400 feet deep and levels are at 45mg per liter. The typical nitrate level coming out of septic systems is closer to 20mg per liter. The best way to mitigate for additional nitrate impacts is to assess the soil type and then limit the size of new lots accordingly.

The discussion was opened for questions from residents. Asked if septic system maintenance would impact lot sizes, Mr. Gallagher stressed that although it is important to maintain septic systems, that limitations are not being applied retroactively. Residents should be aware that regular maintenance of their septic systems will assure that solvents and pathogens do not build up. He added that there are no plans to limit the number of horses on existing properties. Nitrates added to green lawns do not impact nitrate levels in the groundwater significantly, because the aquifer is 200-400 feet deep. The exact sources of nitrates cannot be precisely identified without performing a scientific study, but it is known that agriculture has contributed as well as septic systems that are operating properly. Mr. Gerhardt explained that the State gives

the Regional Water Quality Control Board authority that transcends County authority and the RWQCB regulates all discharges. In addition to nitrate levels, the Santa Rosa Valley also has high levels of chloride in the groundwater.

The MAC thanked County staff for their presentation and stressed that their trail system and continued ability to own horses is of utmost importance to the community. The MAC asked for data with information to support their findings. Supervisor Parks added that development options remaining in the Santa Rosa Valley are limited; however, she will ask County Planning Division staff to present additional information regarding discretionary permits and lot size limitations at the December MAC meeting.

b. Unauthorized Businesses and Related Truck Traffic

Residents expressed concern about the increased number of large trucks transporting dirt and rocks without tarps that have been using neighborhood streets on a continuing basis. Ventura County Code Compliance is in the process of implementing the fining policy adopted recently to curtail businesses operating without permits throughout the County. Supervisor Parks' office reported that violation notice for a business on Chestnut Lane has been issued and impending fines are outlined in the notice. Residents should see an end to the activity by December 13, 2007.

In addition to illegal business operations, residents complained that Los Angeles County Sanitation trucks have been witnessed dumping on property off Presilla Drive. Supervisor Parks' office will address the matter through the proper County departments.

c. Summary of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

In Rosemary Allison's absence, the summary report was continued to December 20, 2007.

d. Trail Plan Update

Mark Burley stated that the draft version of the Trail Plan is available on the Santa Rosa Valley Trails, Inc. website: www.srvtrails.com

e. Mountclef Ridge Update

Save Our Ring of Green lost its case in Superior Court. However, City regulations prohibit grading from November 1 through April 15. An appeal will be filed before April 15, 2008.

f. Community Representative on Synchronized Signals

Don Shubert and Kevin Cannon said that comments will be forwarded to Fehr & Peers on December 19, along with comments from Bridlewood. Various figures on cost estimates were questioned because they were extremely high compared with earlier figures. The final plans will be received on December 21.

10. Future Agenda Items

Action Items:

Revised Flood Plain Map

Design plans for Lexington Hills/Moorpark Road

Information Items:

Report from County on Horse Property Lot Size

Summary of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Trail Plan Update

Unauthorized Business and Related Truck Traffic Update

Community Representative on Synchronized Signals

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m. to December 20, 2007.