

SANTA ROSA VALLEY MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
June 19, 2008

**The Santa Rosa Valley MAC held a meeting on Thursday, June 19, 2008 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

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Agenda Review

No changes were made to the Agenda.

4. Approval of Minutes

Jim Fortney noted that the wording of Item 8d was unclear. Janis Gardner moved to approve the May 15, 2008 Minutes with revisions to 8d. Rosemary Allison seconded the motion. Motion passed 4/0.

5. Comments of Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks

Supervisor Parks told the MAC that the Board of Supervisors approved the 2008-2009 County budget.

A Press Conference was held announcing the new Reverse 911 which will call residents in an emergency. Land line phone numbers are in the system and residents can go to the County's website and add their cell phone.

The Board of Supervisors approved the voter-authorized 3% increase in assessment for the traffic signalization project. Signals which were originally estimated to cost approximately \$200,000 were estimated to have escalated to \$400,000, however recently the costs have come down and one was completed for \$275,000. The County will have a better handle on the costs when bids for the project are opened July 23.

Santa Rosa Park recently had the restrooms, the internal road and the split rail fence installed. The nesting season for the Least Bell's Vireo will end by late summer and the remainder of the work should be finished this year.

Supervisor Parks told the MAC that Mark Burley and Gusie Woodfil have been forwarded information regarding County and Caltrans standards for the safety fence on the Las Posas bridge.

6. Public Comments

Captain Ron Nelson from the Ventura County Sheriff's Department advised that the new cell phone laws will begin on July 1. Other local enforcement agencies such as California Highway Patrol will also be enforcing the new law. If making a call from your cell phone while driving, you must have a hands free Bluetooth earpiece, headset or speakerphone.

Captain Nelson told the MAC that on June 13, the Sheriff's Department was called to a homicide of a young man at a house on Hitch in Moorpark Home Acres where alcohol was being served. He once again advised residents that the Social Host Ordinance imposes a civil penalty and fine of \$1,000 for the owner or resident of the property where alcohol is illegally served to minors. The telephone number to report suspected violations is **654-9511**.

7. Council Comments on Issues Not on the Agenda

Rosemary Allison reminded residents that the car show is coming up in August.

Janis Gardner informed residents that there was an incident on the trail near Hidden Meadows where a local beekeeper's bees had swarmed equestrians on the trail. The County's Agricultural Inspector is investigating the matter.

Don Shubert told the MAC that the May Community Beautification Event held on Saturday, May 17, at Santa Rosa Valley Technology Magnet School coincided with weed abatement requirements and was highly successful. The plan next year is to try to coordinate the event during the same time period, but to ensure that parking at the school is cordoned off so that the spaces are not already occupied by other events.

8. Action Items:

a. Recommendation re High Visibility Crosswalk Striping

Janis Gardner read Mark Burley's comments for the record as follows:

"I recommend against putting in striping that goes across the crosswalk (as in the British style "Zebra Crossing" made famous on the Beatles' Abbey Road album cover). Our proposed crosswalks are intended to make safer crossing for equestrians and pedestrians. Some horses are wary of this kind of striping and that can cause a problem. This kind of striping is not appropriate for an equestrian community."

Following discussion, the item was tabled to the July 19 meeting.

9. Information Items

a. Presentation from Consolidated Disposal Service and Waste Management

Mitchell (Gus) Sanchez, the Site Manager for Consolidated Disposal Service, attended the meeting to address concerns about staging of trash trucks and leaking trucks raised at the last MAC meeting. Mr. Sanchez told the MAC that they try to have the best customer service possible, and if there are complaints, to please call him at **648-1056**. Mr. Sanchez told the MAC that new seals had been installed in their trucks after calls to their office about leaking green waste. Consolidated picks up 70 tons of green waste and horse manure per week. That amount does not include the large bins. Pick up days were recently changed so that Consolidated has 4 drivers on Tuesdays, with 6 trips to Cal-wood Organics Recycling Services in Port Hueneme.

Consolidated is under contract with the County of Ventura and by law they cannot haul over 10 tons per truck. Discussion ensued regarding recycling horse manure, a strategy tried several years ago. The program did not succeed because some residents put trash into the barrels for manure only. When customers ask for a newer bin or barrel, Consolidated has 7-10 days to exchange it.

Regarding staging, "walkout" of barrels are available for residents unable to bring their barrels to the curb. Staging is currently on Las Posas near the clubhouse and takes place from approximately 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The location has been changed once; however, Mr. Sanchez agreed to work with Jim Fortney and Don Shubert to find an alternate location that would be more acceptable to the neighbors.

b. Community Representative on Synchronized Signals

Supervisor Parks told the MAC that the signalization project bids will be opened on July 24. The MAC has been asked to help get easements from several property owners. Four easements will be permanent and two will be temporary easements for signal boxes and controller cables. County counsel said there is no liability involved. Ruth Means and Don Shubert volunteered to help obtain the easements. A resident said that the light at Yucca is not functioning properly. The County number to call for a malfunctioning traffic light is **654-2056**.

c. Update on Mulch at Farming Operation

Nancy Ladisky said she lives on a ridge on Presila and has consulted with an attorney regarding the odor and methane coming from mulch applied to a blueberry crop.

Michelle Thorgerson told the MAC she has lived in the Santa Rosa Valley for 30 years. She supports all farmers and hopes that the Valley will stay farms. She smells nothing where she lives.

Sue Perrin said she lives down the street from the Gerrys and has no problems with anyone using mulch.

Laurie Tucker told the MAC that she has only lived in the Santa Rosa Valley for one year; however, she has three children and moved from a location near a major polluter. She said that if the mulch is emitting methane gas, she believes it is a health hazard. Her location has had an “overwhelming stink” that has been ongoing since last September.

Supervisor Parks said she will work with the Agricultural Commissioner’s office to send suggestions to mitigate the mulch smells.

Janis Gardner read Mark Burley’s statement into the record:

While I am not too familiar with the specifics of the particular complaints that have been made, I would like to make some general comments. Here in Santa Rosa Valley, we have all chosen to live in a rural and agricultural community. In fact that’s the very reason most of us moved here. We get the benefit of larger lots, open fields and bucolic vistas. We have moved in to a farming area and must be prepared to accept both the benefits and drawbacks. Agriculture is a critical part of the economy of Ventura County and the long term viability on the farming business is integral to the quality of life here. Both the State and the County have right to farm laws that protect farm operations. These were enacted in part because new residential property owners who were adjacent to farm land sought to restrict farming operations that had been active for many years. Santa Rosa Valley was an exclusively agricultural area for many decades before rural residential housing arrived. Those of us who have moved here since then should be prepared to accept the choice we made when we decided to move out of an urban or suburban environment. Personally, every time I get woken up by tractors disking the field behind my house at the crack of dawn, every time I get assaulted by the smell of horse manure from a neighbor’s stable, every time a rooster wakes me in the morning and every time I catch the odor of fertilizer off the row crops. I thank my lucky stars I’m not living in the city.

Rosemary Allison read several letters aloud.

Jim Fortney said that he posted information asking for feedback regarding the issue and had less than a 3% response on the survey; negative comments amounted to less than 1% of residents.

Ruth Means summed up by saying that it seemed to be a minority of residents who are being affected by the mulch odor and, in light of County Counsel’s advice supplied by Supervisor Parks’ office, it seems that the Gerry’s are operating legally.

d. Update on CERT Emergency Container

Janet Wall from Supervisor Parks' office said that inquiry was made regarding obtaining an empty shipping container from the Naval base. The MAC asked that the matter remain on the agenda for July 19.

10. Future Agenda Items

Action Items:

Cancellation of August MAC Meeting

Recommendation re High Visibility Crosswalk Striping

Information Items:

Community Representative on Synchronized Signals

Safety Fence on Las Posas Bridge

Update on Mulch at Farming Operation

Update on CERT Emergency Container

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. to July 17, 2008.