



The voice of our community

**Board Meeting**  
**February 11, 2025 – 4:00 PM**  
**MINUTES**

**In-Person at the Montecito Community Hall/Library**  
**And Virtually Via Zoom**

**I. Call to Order 4:02 PM by First Vice President Lundgren Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum**

**Present:** Babbitt, Bollay, Duran, Herting, Lundgren, Macfadyen, Miller, Newquist, Pennino, Prince, Rockenbach, Serrani, Trosky, White, Wittman

**Absent:** Black, Denson

**II. Approval of January 21, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes**

Serrani/Newquist  
Motion Approved

**III. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda-** Trish Davis nominated by Montecito Fire Department to be recognized for Women's History Month by the Montecito Journal

**IV. Community Reports**

**Montecito Union School- Anthony Ranii** Reported that the school has received 40 new students displaced by the Southern California fires. About 35-36 of these students are expected to settle in Montecito for the long term, with 21 coming from private schools like Saint Matthew's Parish School, Calgary Christian School, Westside Waldorf, and Sequoia School. The school is planning to hire two new teachers next year to maintain low class sizes and is adjusting intervention supports due to the varying academic skills of the new students. The school district has approved over \$400,000 of new safety projects, including technology upgrades, camera integration with artificial intelligence, and physical barriers. The school celebrated its 100th day of school with a parade and activities for the kindergartners.

**Montecito Sanitary District-John Weigold** Received one-million-dollar reimbursement from SBCAG for infrastructure work and a potential 1.75-million-dollar reimbursement for infrastructure improvements. He also mentioned preparations for wet weather and the ongoing studies for sewer flow. Discussed the lining of 93 manholes and the trimming of eucalyptus trees on Montecito Lane.

**Supervisor Roy Lee-Deputy Chief of Staff-Aida Thau-**Reported stakeholders' meeting to be held March 4.

**V. Conference Agenda**

- i. How the Recent Fires in LA will Impact our Insurance Market in Montecito and Santa Barbara – Kelly Weiser, Weiser Insurance

Presentation given on California fires and insurance challenges faced by homeowners in California due to recent fires and the impact of insurance policies. Insurance companies have been struggling to pay out claims, leading to rate increases and cancellations. California Fair Plan, which is a carrier of last resort for homeowners in California, has limited coverage and can assess other insurance companies if it cannot pay out claims. Tips were given for homeowners, such as avoiding small claims and working with one broker to shop for insurance. Consider requesting high wildfire deductible to lower premium and layering carriers. If investment is owned in a trust or LLC, consider insuring as a commercial property. The insurance industry is in a state of flux and that homeowners should be mindful of their choices and make informed decisions about their insurance policies.

ii. Intel on the Organized Crime in Our Community –SB County Sheriff’s Office:  
Sgt. Gowing and Detective Nunez

Sgt. Gowing and Detective Anthony Nunes discussed the South American theft groups targeting affluent areas including Montecito, for burglaries. They explained the groups' tactics, such as using signal jammers to block security systems, conducting surveillance, and traveling throughout the US. They highlighted the importance of community involvement in reporting suspicious activities and the potential benefits of installing surveillance cameras, specifically LPRs (License Plate Readers), to help prevent and solve crimes. The discussion also touched on the challenges of maintaining the LPR cameras and the potential for drones being used by these groups. They explained the groups' tactics, such as using signal jammers to block security systems, conducting surveillance, and traveling throughout the US. They stressed importance of security systems, locking doors and windows, get to know your neighbors and report suspicious vehicles or individuals.

**VI. Executive Director Report- Houghton Hyatt** Reported that the annual board retreat on February 1<sup>st</sup> went well and created goals for the year. They are focusing on increasing community awareness through online visibility, articles, forums, and events. The association is working on membership renewals, with 185 renewals bringing in over \$11,000 in income in December and January. A stakeholder meeting was held on February 3<sup>rd</sup> with various agencies to discuss Hot Springs issues.

**VII. Treasurer’s Report-Financials** are still being reconciled for 2024  
Motion to approve 2025 Budget Duran/Serrani Passed unanimously

**VIII. Committee Reports**

- a. Land Use / Transportation-Land Use-Chris Sneddon spoke regarding paths. Abe Powell with Bucket Brigade was in attendance. As association, MA wants to have FAQ that the community can reference.
- b. . History-Trish Davis will incorporate maps and pictures in the community hall
- c. Outreach-A postcard is being sent out to the community to generate new memberships.
- e. Safety Response Subcommittee-Located an office on San Ysidro for a substation for sheriff and two deputies. Meeting is planned to strategically plan.
- f. Hands Across Montecito-Piles of trash on Caltrans property was cleared and continues to improve and grateful for partners. Houghton Hyatt spoke with Union Pacific Railroad and the representative will try to attend the HANDS meetings.

**IX. Old Business-None**

**X. New Business-None**

Adjourned 6:11pm