



The voice of our community

Land Use & Transportation Committee Meeting
February 6, 2023 – 4:00 PM
Via Zoom
Minutes

Attendees: Babbitt, Black, Macfadyen, Overall, Pennino, Robertson, Slaff

Absent: Albertson, Chvatal-Keane, Gottsdanker

I. Call to Order –Bill Babbitt, Chair, 4:03 p.m.

II. Approval of December 5, 2023 Minutes

Bill Babbitt clarified that he was not in attendance at the December meeting.

Motion to approve: Pennino/Macfadyen

Minutes Approved

Approval of January 11, 2024 Minutes

Motion to approve: Pennino/Overall

Minutes Approved

III. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda None

IV. Conference Agenda:

- i. Debris Nets – Pat McElroy presented an update on the Debris Nets that were taken down in November, 2023. Without a path to sustain them financially, they regrettably were taken down. Anchors were drilled into the rocks up to twenty-eight feet. The anchors and loops are still there, and the nets are being stored if the county wants to use them in the future. All nets were on private land. For public agencies to take over is an issue of the permit process since they were put in creeks. There are many permits. Insurance is with the landowners at Buena Vista, Cold Spring, and San Ysidro roads until January 2029, and the county also insured with a policy of \$40M. The county plans to put in a debris basin below Buena Vista Canyon and it will be up to the residents that live there to put in nets. Private money paid for all the nets and the county put up a bond that is still in place. FEMA accepted that this is an obligated project to pay for cleaning. The issue about the nets is a financial one as a small non-profit being on the hook for cleaning out six debris nets, they would need to go to the public to raise money. Being in an endangered habitat, they could create some environmental damage. It wasn't financially feasible.
- ii. Paths in the Hedgerow-Chris Sneddon gave update. The county is partnering with the Bucket Brigade and the next project is at San Leandro and Santa Rosa and the issue is that there is not a lot of room. They are working with the Bucket Brigade and may do surveying and outreach.

iii. YMCA Update – Margo Byrne (CEO) They made adjustments that were requested to the plan. They are requesting an exemption on the streetlights and to talk about the pathways that the county is putting in. They will plan for future DG paths if needed in the future. They submitted the plan to Public Works and are waiting to go to the Planning Commission.

iv. Montecito Creek Issue – Richard Wax gave a presentation about the building into the creek where his home is located. Montecito Creek is on both sides of his property and the neighbor concreted in boulders into both sides of the creek without permits. Fish and Game gave a cease-and-desist order to them, and they then went back in and did more damage. There was \$9M damage in 2023 and again in the last storm. The neighbor concreted and the water deflected to Wax's property and did over \$800K in damage. Fish and Wildlife has the only authority to do anything about the issue, the county doesn't have the authority to red tag him. Wax requested support of the MA LUC of his resolution to the neighbor's unpermitted concrete building. Darcel Elliott with Supervisor Williams' office will discuss with Williams.

V. Other Communities (Palm Springs – STR Update, Beverly Hills – Judge's Order) Palm Springs capped how many short-term rentals can be there. A Beverly Hills judge issued a hold on building permits to show interest in affordable housing.

VI. Working Session on Priorities – Resources – Working

Document (*Each LU/Transportation committee member to identify two or three areas they feel they can assist) The Biltmore is getting a new General Manager this month. Chair Babbitt requested the committee to commit to two to three issues to work on.

VII. Old Business

Clarifying priorities of the LUC-asking members to take the lead on some of them, create awareness and advocacy on the issues and move them forward. Make progress in smaller groups.

VIII. New Business None

IX. Adjourned 5:09 p.m.