



The voice of our community

**Board Meeting
June 10, 2025 – 4:00 PM
MINUTES**

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

I Call to Order at 4:03 PM by Chair Black. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Present: Babbitt, Black, Bollay, Denson, Duran, Herting, Lundgren, Macfadyen, Miller, Newquist, Rockenbach, Pennino, Serrani, Trosky, White

Absent: Prince, Wittman

II. Approval of May 13, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Abstained: Babbitt

Newquist/Denson Motion Approved

III. New Board Member – Vote by Board of Candy Hedrick- Bill Babbitt, director, announced his resignation due to personal reasons related to his partner's health.

Action: Vote to approve Candy Hedrick as board member to serve the remainder of the term of Bill Babbitt

Approved unanimously

IV. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda- Cindy Chvatal-Keane, member of United Neighbors, which is a statewide organization of residential groups. There is a bill moving through the state legislature, SB 79. It is a land use bill that will allow a transit housing bill that will allow 65 to 75 feet apartment buildings in residential and light industrial zones, anywhere between a quarter mile and a half mile from a bus stop. For Montecito, the most important thing that this bill wants to do is take away local control. If it becomes a state law, it will take priority over any local ordinance or local zoning rules. The state is looking to end local control, and they want to make it impossible for a city or community to plan with community input. She would like to speak at the land use meeting and have the support for opposition to this bill unless it's amended. United Neighbors has a website. It's unitedneighbors.net

V. 4:15 PM Montecito Substation Update - Phillip Posch, Miramar

The safety response subcommittee had originally worked to establish a short-term substation in Montecito with support from the community and the Montecito Community Foundation and a one-year lease, recognizing the community's need for a local law enforcement presence. However, the Miramar has now stepped forward to host the substation, covering all associated costs. While initial expectations aimed for a July opening, the timeline is dependent on the county permitting process, which typically involves a 45-day review once all materials are submitted—this occurred the prior week. Though no firm opening date can yet be committed, both the Miramar and Sheriff's Office are working closely with the county and expect progress within the coming weeks. The new location, while not as centrally located as the Upper Village, is seen as a practical solution to reduce sheriff response times in the area.

VI. Community Reports

Montecito Fire Department Chief Neels reported on wildfire preparedness efforts and the community meeting scheduled for June 26th at Montecito Union School at 6 pm. Reported that brushwork clearing has taken place. The chief reminded all to keep defensible space, given frequent wind events.

Sheriff Dept.-Lt. Rich Brittingham- Update on some recent events includes arrests on Channel Drive, an expired vehicle towed, an elderly woman wired \$500k to an east coast individual, two break-ins, mail thefts, domestic violence on Jameson, attempted homicide, and a prowler on East Valley, continuing to ticket at Hot Springs Trail. Questions from the board regarding the number of sheriff deputies patrolling Montecito, answered as it really varies on what day and what is happening in the area, but generally three, counting the sergeant. A question regarding the cameras installed on the poles, whether they were Flock's. They are not, but most likely, Caltrans and the sheriff does not have access to them.

Cold Spring School- Amy Alzina- Reported that they are the top school and district in the state. They are getting over 95% proficiency in science, ELA, and math. Expressed pride and gratitude for their teachers. They settled negotiations with their teachers, a three-year contract. They will be given an 11.5% raise over three years: 4% next year, 4% the following year, and 3.5%. Summer school or summer camps will start on Monday. Almost the whole school is participating in the offerings of surf camp, cooking, engineering, knitting, and Spanish. Alzina is the chair of the AI Taskforce in California for kindergarten through 12th grade, and the school is also hosting the AI Summit at Cold Springs School District for superintendents across the state

Montecito Union School-Anthony Ranii-Expressed appreciation and pride for the students who matriculated from sixth grade to seventh grade and gave many examples of successful school and community support of the students.

Office of County Supervisor Roy Lee-Aida Thau-They reported the vandalism on both mailboxes in Montecito with a ticket to the United States Postal Service, and they are going to send an inspector to see if they can replace them with a higher security device. They hope to have an update on mailboxes at the next meeting.

Montecito Water District- General Manager, Nick Turner-The district's 2024 consumer confidence report is available, the annual water quality report that is provided to the public. It describes where the water is from, how it was treated, and the results. The water quality results for 2024 indicated that the water met or exceeded state and federal water quality standards. The report includes that there was no lead found in any service lines that were surveyed within Montecito and Summerland. This includes the district's portion of the service line and the customer's portion of the service line. A sample of water sources found no PFAS. The report is available on the website. Sign-ups for Smart Metering are underway, and all are encouraged to register. Leaks can be detected in real time, and customers can be notified. The district had a budget workshop in May. They will have an annual rate increase that's coming in, beginning July 1. It is what was adopted and planned for last year, a series of five increases that are planned through 2029. Montecito Water District will be at the July 4th event and will have a water bottle filling station for anyone who has a refillable container.

VII. President's Report-Doug Black-None

VIII. Executive Director Report- Houghton Hyatt-Reported that a successful Hands Across Montecito awareness event was held last Thursday to celebrate five years of community work. Originally initiated by Sharon Byrne, the initiative has grown, and the event was celebrated and supported by the full Hands team. The event showcased the size and dedication of the group working collaboratively toward local care and outreach. The Miramar generously provided charcuterie and snacks, while Folded Hills and Margerum supplied wine. A raffle raised over \$1,000, and pledge cards brought in approximately \$800 to support the group's upcoming transition to a standalone 501(c)(3) organization. Membership currently stands at 847, with 67 renewals recorded in May totaling about \$12,600, the majority submitted online.

IX. Treasurer's Report- Financials are in great condition.

X. Committee Reports

A. Land Use / Transportation-Tye Warner has generously funded the reconstruction of the steps across from the Biltmore, which had become hazardous due to a large gap. The work is currently underway, and maintenance of the area will also be supported moving forward. The Coastal Commission is expected to review and potentially approve the related permits this Thursday. The goal is to have the rebuilt access and associated safety features in place by the 4th of July. The Biltmore team also plans to host a community event to recognize Warner's contribution. Discussions are ongoing with the County Parks Department regarding coordination and lifeguard coverage, and an update is expected at the next meeting.

B. Events-Mindy Denson reported that the board unanimously selected this year's Grand Marshals, Amy Alzina and Anthony Ranii, honoring their inspiring contributions, which were shared personally during the meeting. A planning meeting was recently held at Lower Manning Park, the site of this year's 4th of July event. Highlights will include the return of the Montecito Cup competition, a reconfigured layout, a new barbecue setup by Fire & O'Brien, and—for the first time since COVID—beer and wine service, now fully compliant with state regulations. Entertainment will feature music from the Music Academy of the West and expanded family fun, including three face painters.

C. History-Trish Davis shared photos and samples, newsletters, and statistics of issues and the makeup of the Montecito Association board fifty years ago, along with fun facts about past residents.

D. Outreach-Jan Rockenbach reported that the committee will have a table at the 4th of July festivities. She will discuss with Beth Sullivan from Coast Village Road Association about doing an outreach table and include some of their things that they are doing that week. Will be working with Trish and would like to do the outdoor movies for the end of summer or the beginning of the school year.

E. Safety Response Subcommittee-Update earlier in the meeting.

F. Hands Across Montecito-The next outreach walk is scheduled for June 18 at 8:30 AM, beginning at the Chevron station. These monthly walks, coordinated with CityNet and other partners, help assess shelter bed needs, monitor encampments, and identify cleanup areas—current focuses include Butterfly Lane, Channel Drive, and the 101 North encampment. The outreach team is encouraged by recent progress, including individuals being moved into La Posada housing after enrolling in CityNet services. The team continues to seek additional shelter options through partners like Dignity Moves and is excited about transitioning to 501(c)(3) status to enhance oversight of resources and donations. Thanks were extended to a board member's firm for offering legal assistance with the nonprofit filing. Outreach walk dates vary slightly month to month depending on scheduling. The team remains committed to consistent engagement with unhoused individuals and celebrates each successful transition indoors as a community win.

XI. Old Business Board volunteers were requested to sign up to assist with the 4th of July events.

XII. New Business Concerns were raised about the Vandenberg Air Force Base's proposal to create another launch pad, potentially increasing air and noise pollution.

Adjourned 5:34 pm