



The voice of our community

**Board Meeting
September 9, 2025 – 4:00 PM
MINUTES**

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

I Call to Order at 4:02 PM by Chair Black. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Present: Black, Bollay, Duran, Hedrick, Herting, Macfadyen, Miller, Prince, Rockenbach, Serrani, White, Wittman

Absent: Denson, Lundgren, Newquist, Pennino, Trosky

II. Approval of June 10, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Abstained: Prince, Wittman

Rockenbach/Macfadyen Motion Approved

III. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda- None

IV. Community Reports

Sheriff Dept.-Lt. Rich Brittingham- Update on recent events includes boats washed up on Butterfly Beach and worked with Heal the Ocean to remove. Contacted about encampment at the cemetery, making nightly visits to give verbal warnings and are having outreach to them. There are no thefts at the post office. They are proactively sending sheriff to monitor parking past the Miramar Hotel. Regarding increase in illegal parking on East Valley Road, send an email to sheriffs and they will put them at the forefront for offices to pay attention to it.

Office of County Supervisor Roy Lee-Aida Thau-No update this month, will have update with Supervisor Lee and sheriff in October meeting.

Montecito Union School-Anthony Ranii-Welcomed 396 students and two TK classes. New families are being welcomed, painted school in areas that were not redone-three fitness centers on campus and opened to the public. Working on fitness and mental wellness with a zone of regulation work and new tools for teachers. They have the highest test scores ever at MUS. Working with the lawsuit, none of current staff worked at the school between 1972-1976. They tried to mediate and was not accepted. Working with Dr. Lucy to help students struggling with behavior issues.

Cold Spring School- Amy Alzina- Reported that they have 30 new families and 191 students including 17 TK students. They are using AI tools; students are creating personal mission statements. The districts that are AI first are adaptable and resilient.

Montecito Water District- General Manager, Nick Turner-Reported that the water supply outlook is quite favorable, with no projected water shortages. State water is surplus to Montecito needs and have an agreement in place for state water. The district was awarded unique federal funding with a zero percent loan to retrofit reservoirs. Federal funded construction to begin in the fall in phases. The painting of fire hydrants is taking place for better visibility in emergency situations. The Guilles won both of the water wise contests. The Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) met last week; the public and private wells are measured and reported year over year, and the wells remain constant. The agency completed the sustainability plan approved by the state in 2024. The well registry program is going well with about 350 respondents.

V. Agenda

i. 101 Construction Updates – Kirsten Ayers- Five of eight are complete. Highlights include new pavement, having longer lifespan, improving storm drain system under roads May/June. Building retaining wall and soundwall on top, redoing all storm drains, ramps, to be completed by end of 2028.

ii. Eucalyptus Tree Removal Along East Valley Rd – Chip Nichols, Birnam Wood-The HOA board Eucalyptus tree removal project. Fifteen years ago, a few homeowners removed Eucalyptus trees without much notice and replace with different oak trees and hedges on E. Valley Road. Since then, the debris flow and fires have happened. The future is uncertain with 100-year floods and fires. They created a survey to learn what residents thought, and 16 homeowners responded yes or probably yes for removal. The cost is responsible by homeowners near the tree. Fire risk is concern, in a fire, eucalyptus trees explode. A great danger of eucalyptus trees is the bark that peels, and the leaves fall to the base, and it is a fire hazard. The fire district said that the major concern is the shallow roots of the trees leading them to fall. Homeowners are concerned that in a fire or debris flow, the trees would prevent fire trucks from getting through. Caltrans required a study to get a permit from the county. Bids for studies are \$50K.

iii. Hot Springs Trail Red Flag No Parking Areas – Chief Neels update included the no parking at the Hot Springs Trail and the partnerships to make advancements with the Hot Springs Trail. A lot of resources have been sent to area fires for a month and a half. The communication center closed and joined regional fire communications center, they no longer have answering service answer after hours so that calls will go live to a 911 operator. The 9/11 ceremony this year is from 6:55 am to 7:05 am. Red Flag Warning restrictions at Hot Springs- three zones represent red flag zones on south coast and parking will be prohibited and visitors will be towed. Signs are posted in the area with enforcement details, and the county is responsible for closing roads. Hot Springs Trail access restrictions during red flag warning, the gate will be locked at Hot Springs Trail.

VI. President's Report-Doug Black-Thanked the Nominating Committee for accepting their role; Melissa Miller, Tom Bollay, Jacqueline Duran, Andrea Newquist, and Joe Pennino. The board needs to approve the nomination. **Motion to approve:** Macfadyen/Wittman **Motion approved**

VII. Executive Director Report- Houghton Hyatt-Reported that expenses were under \$11k, the October meeting will have Supervisor Lee and Chief of Staff Aida Thau presenting. The new Chair of the Montecito Planning Commission, Steven Amerikaner, gave presentation to the Land Use Committee. The MA has 841 members and thirty-one new members this year. We will send letters to expired members. The Hands Across Montecito outreach held large coordination event, all working together. Regarding status of 501c3 for HAM, we are reaching out to Santa Barbara Foundation to request of them to be fiscal sponsor. Heal the Ocean and Earthcomb are working on boat removal. The individual on Coast Village Road gas station has moved into housing at La Posada and is working on getting documents to get a job. The next outreach walk will be on October 17 at 8:30 am.

VIII. Treasurer's Report- The P&L is \$45k ahead of last year, with memberships up and should finish the year strong.

IX. Committee Reports

A. History-Getting history displays ready. Announced that Jean Von Wittenburg passed away last week.

X. Old Business-None

XI. New Business-None

Adjourned 5:51 pm