



The voice of our community

Land Use & Transportation Committee Meeting

June 4, 2024 – 4:00 PM

Via Zoom

Minutes

Attendees: Babbitt, Black, Gottsdanker, Dorinne Lee Johnson, Macfadyen, Pennino, Robertson, Serrani, Slaff

Absent: Albertson, Overall, Chvatal-Keane, Gray

I. Call to Order –Dorinne Lee Johnson, Chair, 4:00 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes: Black/Macfadyen
Motion approved

III. Public Comment for Items NOT on Agenda: None

IV. Conference Agenda:

A. 101 Update with Key Updates for Montecito – Kirsten Ayers, Principal Ayars & Associates

Highway 101 project from Montecito to Carpinteria is complete. Padaro is in construction with the middle section being finished. The carpool lane will open when Padaro is finished. San Ysidro roundabout just opened Montecito roundabout is under construction for a year. Olive Mill roundabout is complete with sandstone on the edge and landscaping is raised in the middle for safety. The Montecito freeway center work will finish at the end of June. The soundwalls have been taken out of the project with the ability to add back in in the future. Divided lane at Hixon Road to about San Ysidro will be concrete then channelized separation. Emergency vehicles can drive over the plastic cones. Where there is space, plantings will be filled in.

B. Sanitary District Easement & Ordinance Presentation –John Weigold, GM Montecito Sanitary District

Key takeaways: every utility has an easement, and nothing should be built on an easement. There were approximately 150 ADUs built in Montecito in the last year. Manholes are used to clean lines and are strategically placed to maintain cleaning at least every five years. Ordinance number 23 for easement encroachment was adopted by Montecito Sanitary District Board on March 20, 2024 and gives the ability to do license agreements which go with the property and includes release of liability. The permit process was discussed, and the county makes the determination. The county is responsible for enforcement and is the contact for known encroachment. There are 3,000 homes connected to the sewer system and about 300 that are not. The ones that are not on the system are built in hard-to-reach areas usually high up the mountain with expense on the homeowner. They try to do it all at once to economize.

C. Update on the Groundwater Sustainability Agency – Nick Turner, GM Montecito Water District

Presentation given on Montecito Groundwater Sustainability Agency and current projects. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act was signed into law in 2024 and empowers one or more local agencies with statutory authority over water resources within groundwater basin to form GSAs. Groundwater is important and the basin in Montecito is 1,200 acres for public use, which is 30% of all the water needed. Property owners are required to register their well. Progress has been made and data collected indicates the basin is in reasonably good health. The board focus is on data filling gaps, ongoing monitoring, modeling and knowledge acquisition as well as keeping the groundwater supply sustainable for all stakeholders. Projects underway include basin monitoring, groundwater level and quality, streamflow monitoring, seawater intrusion monitoring. Property owners can receive \$3,000 for installing rain gardens on their property and have a free water meter installed for data collection. The past year's rainfall has recovered the groundwater levels. It is not possible to sell a private well. The next GSA meeting will be held on August 23.

V. Old Business None

VI. New Business None

VII. Adjourned 5:52 p.m.