



The voice of our community

Board Meeting
November 12, 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, Denson, Herting, Lundgren, Macfadyen, Miller, Newquist, Pennino, Prince, Serrani, White

Absent: Duran, Hedrick, Trosky, Wittman

II. Approval of October 14, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Abstained: Pennino

Herting/Newquist Motion Approved

III. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda-Cindy Feinberg thanked Mindy Denson for a great Beautification Day and Trish Davis for great service. Announced that the Christmas tree lighting on Coast Village Road will have refreshments on December 4th.

IV. Community Reports

Chief Neels-MFD-Gave updates that fuel reduction efforts are underway and 2-4 inches of rain are forecasted. The weather service is forecasting some debris flow, and he has concerns about that messaging and he met with them. There is no threat as there is after a fire, so does not pertain to Montecito.

Sheriff Dept.-Lt. Rich Brittingham- Update on recent events. There were several drunken arrests, burglary and a suicide at the cemetery.

Coldspring School-Amy Alzina-Hosting a movie night with the MA tomorrow night. She attended AI training in San Francisco. Working with AI best practices, Google Gemini allows slides and apps in AI. Parent conferences next week and she is grateful for the team. There is AI for kids through Google, they have a safe space for students. Information stays within school environment.

Montecito Union School-Anthony Ranii-Was happy to host Beautification Day. They are working with community partners to host Light up the Night, the 1/9 event at 6pm. The community still wants the community event. They spent \$7.9M to settle the lawsuit and \$1.1M in fees. They paid without taking a loan by moving money from roofing project to general fund to pay lawsuit. Clarified that ICE can come to any public area of public schools; parking lot, front office, but need a judicial warrant for campus or classrooms.

Aida Thau, Chief of Staff, Roy Lee, 1st District Supervisor-Reported that had hoped to have a substation update but learned last week that more steps are required to issue a permit and hopes to have update in December. Questions were raised about the next steps. Approval was in August, and it is unclear what is holding up the permit. The planning review took place last week. Planning and Development staff are reviewing, and Aida Thau will have a Planning and Development representative come to answer questions. When presented to the county, it was a separate permit.

Montecito Water District, Nick Turner-Congratulated the MA for a great Beautification Day. They received a \$25K check from Montecito Community Foundation and collaborated with Lotus Land on landscaping design. Capital projects are beginning again with pipeline replacement and seismic retrofit starting soon. Funded with federal funds, without interest, to seismically retrofit all reservoirs.

V. Agenda

i. Support for Emergency Animal Evacuation in SB County – Rhonda Hathaway, Equine Evacuation-Presentation given outlining the proposed new master plan for the Equine Evacuation. Evacuated animals will have to go to Ojai. The master plan will demolish stalls from 450 to 60. If this plan goes through there will be no large animal rescue area between Ojai and Santa Maria. The MA board had a discussion regarding needing more information and how to help and agreed to write a letter in support of keeping the stalls for animal rescue.

ii. Support for Upper Village Crosswalk – Land Use-Discussion about the need for a crosswalk to be installed for safety at the gas station on East Valley Road. It is Caltrans jurisdiction. There is precedence for a crosswalk. Motion to write a letter of support for a crosswalk Bollay /Newquist Motion approved

VI. President’s Report-Doug Black-Announced that Board member Jan Rockenbach has resigned to be a Planning Commissioner. The Nominating Committee reconvened and nominated Laura Bode. The Board voted unanimously to seat her on the board. The Nominating Committee slate of candidates on the ballot to come out soon. The Executive Nominating Committee is Leslie Lundgren, Patrice Serrani, and Andrea Newquist.

VII. Executive Director Report- Houghton Hyatt-Reported that Cheryl Trosky helped with Ghost Village Road event. Beautification Day collected \$16K in sponsorships, there were three hundred participants and eighteen community partners. Of 285 shirts, 250 were given out to participants. Westmont students came out to volunteer; there was a trash collecting contest and 2,500 pounds of trash were collected. State representative Greg Hart presented the MA with a resolution for the 40th year of Beautification Day. A holiday event for the board and supporters is scheduled for December 3rd at 5 pm at Little Mountain.

VIII. Treasurer Report- Expenses are down and income is up.

V. Committee Reports

A. Land Use-Burnham trees are coming down and a neighbor across the street would like undergrounding on other side of street. Bill Babbitt offered to talk with interested neighbors about undergrounding. The trees will be replaced with oaks. The permit for removal is \$50K and does not include tree removal. After trees are removed, the gas line underneath will be redone and then oaks planted.

B. Events-Mindy Denson-Beautification Day was great.

C. History-Leslie Lundgren-Pictures and artwork to be revealed in December.

D. Outreach Committee-Movie night at Cold Spring School.

E. Hands Across Montecito-Andrea Newquist-Ongoing conversation about laws regarding encampment removal. Coast Village Road panhandlers and trash. PATH is leaving at the end of December, but no one will be displaced. Trash bags will be handed out on outreach walks going forward.

IX. Old Business-None

X. New Business-Write letter of support for Equine Evacuation Center.

Adjourned 5:52 pm