



The voice of our community

**Board Meeting
December 9, 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: Black, Bollay, Duran, Hedrick, Herting, Lundgren, Macfadyen, Miller, Newquist, Pennino, Prince, Serrani, Trosky, Wittman, White

Absent: Denson

II. Approval of November 12, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Abstained: Duran, Hedrick, Trosky, Wittman

Newquist/Herting Motion Approved

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

IV. Community Reports

Chief Neels-MFD-Reported that there have been many events were attended. December 31st, the deadline for Zone Zero has shifted to a safe responsibility area, recognizing the nuances of different areas and potential language changes, shifting from a hardline approach, the Board of Forestry is shifting to flexibility in Zone Zero to local control. Zone Zero requirements in new construction will be in effect when the language is clarified.

Sheriff Dept.-Lt. Rich Brittingham- Update on recent events on a relatively quiet month included vehicle break-ins, trespassing, and a fentanyl possession arrest. Regarding the substation at the Miramar, County Planning and Development confirmed that the building permit has been approved and is ready to issue. They received a lease and an existing room will be set up with two desks and equipment.

Montecito Union School-Anthony Ranii-Reported that they ended the year strong with many activities including, a Book Bash featuring three authors and approximately 200 attendees, and a math event. They will hold a blood drive on the 10th and a winter sing on the 17th. New enrichment after-school activities will be offered to include cooking classes, nature rangers outside activities and a school band. MFD recently held training on site. Marking the first anniversary of the 1/7 fire, they will hold a coffee for families. The 1/9 Light the Night will be held at MUS commemorating the fifth anniversary of the debris flow. The MUS Foundation has raised \$700k so far to help rebuild the \$9.1M in reserves to replace funds spent on the lawsuit.

Aida Thau, Chief of Staff, Roy Lee, 1st District Supervisor-Updates given on recreational infrastructure projects, including public efforts for the County Parks Recreation Master Plan, new GIS mapping of all county trails, and progress on the Middle Road pedestrian path, expected to be completed by mid-February. Community feedback is also being sought for a new bicycle mapping initiative.

Montecito Water District, Nick Turner-Reported that the community received more than 11 inches of rain in November, the highest total since 1924. Water supplies saw minimal benefit due to extremely dry watershed conditions. The district continues to move forward with capital improvements, including pipe replacement on Freehaven Drive. The annual food and toy drive will take place in partnership with the Unity Shoppe.

V. Agenda

i. Highway 101: Santa Barbara North Project Updates

Fred Luna with SBCAG and Toby Ayers with SBRoads-The last segment is in construction and will come back in February/March to talk about detours with maps regarding schools and first responders. The Santa Barbara northbound is the final segment. Starting in 2026, north/south bridges will close, and will remove vegetation and trees during mostly night work in January. It will open in 2027 with landscaping in 2028. There was a postcard mailed in November for publicity. All community partners will have updates in January before nesting season. It will be noisy at night. All information is on their website with timelines.

ii. Montecito Sheriff's Substation Permits – SB County Planning & Development- Presentation given outlining permit process. Plans for the substation were approved on this day. An existing apartment at the Miramar will be reconfigured to make a studio and will add electricity. Once the permit is issued, there will be tenant improvements and inspections. There will be a new access point. The applicant combined applications during the entitlement phase for efficiency. The building permit for the substation is a stand-alone.

VI. President's Report-Doug Black-Announced that the ballots are in the mail and are due back by December 29th.

VII. Executive Director Report- Houghton Hyatt-Reported that money is being raised to support Andrew Velikanje, Earth Comb's clean up expenses. There are two donation buttons on our website. The annual board meeting and January meeting is 1/13/26. New board members will be seated, and a Doodle Poll will be sent for scheduling a retreat date with ideal dates of 1/24, 31 or 2/7.

VIII. Treasurer Report- We are about \$1,200 over budget but income is up.

IX. Committee Reports

- A. Land Use-None
- B. Events-A holiday party was held.
- C. History-Leslie Lundgren-Large map of Montecito installed, an original map in Montecito Magazine. They will continue to add to the display.
- D. Outreach Committee-Membership push.
- E. Safety Response Subcommittee-Report earlier in meeting
- F. Hands Across Montecito-Andrea Newquist-Meetings are the first Wednesday of each month at 9:00am, the next outreach walk is 12/17 at 8:30 am at the Chevron station. Andrew with Earth Comb, continues to clean out the area. Funds continue to be raised to be able to respond when needed and will hand out trash bags to unhoused so to be able to keep trash together. All encampments will be removed in January by Caltrans.

X. Old Business-Letter regarding the proposed master plan for the Earl Warren Showgrounds, emphasizing the importance of preserving equestrian facilities and adding language highlighting their role in emergency evacuation and disaster response was approved by the board.

XI. New Business-A letter in support of a crosswalk will be emailed to all board members and will be discussed at the executive committee meeting.

Adjourned 5:36 pm