



The voice of our community

**Board Meeting
April 14, 2026 – 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 Macfadyen. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Present: Bode, Craigie, Denson, Duran, Gherson, Hedrick, Macfadyen, Prince, Rockenbach, Serrani, White, Wittman

Absent: Albertson, Bollay, Herting, Lundgren, Pennino

II. Approval of March 10, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve with amendment to reflect Rock Rockenbach was in attendance via Zoom.

Duran/Rockenbach Motion Approved

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

IV. President's Report- None

V. Executive Director Report-Houghton Hyatt-Reported continuing to negotiate new lease for the association. Received 70 membership renewals in March, with 10 new members. This is 34% of the annual goal of \$150,000 in memberships.

VI. Treasurer Report-Financials are great with membership 34% of annual goal to date and are on par with expenses.

VII. Community Reports

Montecito Fire Department-Brian Fallon was welcomed as the new fire chief and gave an update that included rescue for snake bites and caution to be aware on the trails. A land mobile project is underway to transmit through the dead spots. A mobile repeater will be placed to cover all the dead zones which will be helpful for firefighter safety. They are finalizing an agreement with the Forest Service. A blood drive will be held on May 6. Working with CalFire on abatement issues and are halfway through the chipping program, removing vegetation.

SB County Sherriff-Rich Brittingham gave updates including, trespassers, scams, including a store that was scammed out of \$125k, arrests for possession of stolen property and narcotics. He emphasized the need for specific details when reporting incidents to law enforcement.

Roy Lee, 1st District Supervisor-Aida Thau, Chief of Staff, shared updates including the county's efforts to establish a film commission to generate additional revenue, ongoing efforts to evict an individual from a hot springs trail area and upcoming community information meetings about the Ortega siding project.

The county now has the availability of pre-approved plans for accessory dwelling units (ADUs) to reduce construction costs. All cannabis growers must comply with installing scrubbers and there are no more extensions,

Montecito Sanitary District-John Weingold gave updates to upcoming rate study and adjustments. They coordinate with other agencies for traffic control during projects.

Montecito Union School-Superintendent Anthony Ranii shared information on recent cultural day, track team practices, and social-emotional learning sessions as well as highlights of the school's efforts to integrate new math enrichment curricula and prepare for state testing and an upcoming gala.

Cold Spring School-Amy Alzina gave update to include, holding a moveathon and a gala to reimagine the TK space and will hold a track meet on May 11.

VIII. Agenda - Hands Across Montecito Annual Update:

CityNet-Brad Fieldhouse, Jessica Avelar-Bruce, EarthComb, Andrew Velikanje, Terry Baxter

CityNet representatives outlined the organization's efforts to provide homeless services, including outreach and housing navigation. They discussed the partnership with the MA that started in 2020, is a model. They emphasized the organization's efforts to provide homeless services, including outreach and housing navigation, the importance of leveraging county contracts and medical system funds to support their work. They would like to expand their efforts to address other vulnerable populations, such as domestic violence victims and human trafficking survivors. There is a need for collaboration with other agencies and community organizations to address homelessness effectively. Montecito started the year with \$70,651 in the dedicated account to cover outreach.

EarthComb outlined their services whose original goal was to offer employment to individuals experiencing homelessness. They do two monthly surveys that include the railroad tracks and coastline with occasional debris removal. They discussed the challenges of working with Caltrans and the need for better collaboration to address trash accumulation and highlighted the success of their trash removal efforts, including the removal of over 100,000 pounds of trash in Santa Barbara County.

IX. Committee Reports

A. Community and Government Relations: They were updated by Aida Thau with Supervisor Roy's office regarding proposed film commission, Hot Springs, substation update and presentation of Borgatello propose building. Concern for potential challenges of on-location filming in the community, including noise and traffic issues, were discussed. Additional community issues, including a proposal to support a variance for a new house behind the library parking lot, which was met with concerns from a long-term tenant. The board decided to redraft the support letter to remove personal elements and ensure it focuses on the building's design.

Motion to approve letter as written to MBAR without the personal aspect. White/Duran Motion approved
Rockenbach abstained; Craigie opposed.

The sheriff substation at the Miramar hotel was discussed as progress has not been made. Plans to invite the Miramar representative to the next meeting for an update was raised. They also addressed the upcoming construction of the Miramar project, which will involve 2,500 dump truck loads, and the need for no parking signs on East Valley Road due to safety concerns.

Motion to request in a letter to Caltrans and State of California in support of no parking signs on East Valley Road. Rockenbach/Bode Motion approved

B. Events: Mindy Denson (Chair) A Sip and Shop event is planned for April 30 to support local businesses, there will be food offerings.

C. History: None

D. Outreach: Laura Bode (Chair) Leadership event is planned for May 14. A drive for business membership with new levels and perks will be on the website soon. Proposing an event beginning of June for high donors.

E. Safety Response: None

F. Hands Across Montecito: Upcoming outreach walk. Earthcomb gave committee report, sheriff can only ticket half hour after sundown for illegal camping.

X. Old Business-None

XI. New Business- National Center for Atmospheric Research filed a lawsuit

Adjourned 6:03 p.m.