



The voice of our community

Board Meeting
August 11, 2026 – 4:00 PM
MINUTES

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

I. Call to Order at 4:04 PM by Chair Macfadyen. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Present: Albertson, Bode, Bollay, Craigie, Denson, Hedrick, Herting, Macfadyen, Pennino, Prince, Rockenbach, White, Wittman

Absent: Duran, Gherson, Lundgren, Serrani

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

III. Community Reports

Montecito Fire Department-Brian Fallon reported several firefighters are supporting mutual aid assignments for the Spokane fire. Current staff supporting mutual aid is 10% and they do not go over that so assure protection for Montecito. Mutual aid is reimbursed. There are two seats available on the board for November election with 5 candidates as of now. A new partnership with the Montecito Water District will strengthen local coverage during Red Flag Warnings. A four-person brush engine will be temporarily stationed at the Water District's East Valley Road pump station. This will reduce emergency response times on Montecito's east side by approximately seven minutes.

Santa Barbara County Sheriff Dept.-Lt. Rich Brittingham reviewed several recent incidents involving theft, illegal camping, public intoxication and indecent exposure. The importance of residents pressing charges when suspects are identified and stolen property is recovered was encouraged. Without a cooperating victim, deputies may not be able to make an arrest or pursue a prosecution which may allow for repeat offenses. The new Miramar Sheriff substation is now open, giving deputies a convenient place for breaks, writing reports, while maintaining a more consistent law-enforcement presence in Montecito.

Roy Lee, 1st District Supervisor-Aida Thau, Deputy Chief of Staff, reported that they were recessed for a few weeks. Regarding the petition for a dog park at Manning Park, they propose the MA bringing County Public Works to discuss pros and cons and feasibility.

Montecito Water District-Reported that construction of seismic retrofits continues ahead of schedule. Work on eight of the district's nine reservoirs is expected to be completed by the end of the year. Construction at the Park Lane Reservoir is underway. Groundwater levels are above the historical average and higher than last year. The district is working on a new waterwise demonstration garden, partnering with Lotusland and the Montecito Community Foundation.

Montecito Sanitary District-John Weigold reported that no road closures are scheduled for the foreseeable future. Preparations for a wet winter are underway by identifying illegal stormwater connections to sewer system. During storms, these connections can increase wastewater flows by up to seven times, raising treatment costs and stressing the system. The district completed its first collection system master plan, covering 78 miles of underground piping and identifying lines that need repair or greater capacity.

Montecito Union School-Anthony Ranii reported the start of the school year on August 20 with 14.6 students per class and 24 classrooms. They hired a music teacher and others. They are preparing for rain and have repaired half of the roofs with the other half scheduled for next summer. High reading, math and science scores were also reported. School Board election is November 3rd and has 4 candidates.

Cold Spring Schools-Amy Alzina reported that they have 198 students this school year. They are expanding responsible AI education following their successful community summit.

IV. President's Report-Bill Macfadyen reported on the 4th of July parade as the best parade held with several thousand in attendance.

V. Executive Director Report-Houghton Hyatt reported on the 4th of July celebrations, thanked all that participated. Expenses were higher but donations and sales exceeded expenses. Lease negotiations are ongoing and asked the county for clarification before signing. The Community Hall Use agreement has been updated and simplified and is all online. Working with neighbors to plan and host meetings for storm preparedness are underway. Regarding memberships, the year's goal was \$150k in memberships which are about 2-3 per month, currently gained 36 for 2026. There will be a new form for business members to fill out, and business members are online now.

VI. Approval of June 9, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve June 9, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

Moved by R. Rockenbach, seconded by J. Pennino

Abstained: C. Albertson, G. Prince, J. Wittman

Result: Motion carried

VII. Treasurer Report-Financials and memberships look good.

VIII. Agenda:

i. Gas Leaf Blower Ban/Letter of Support-Vote

The Community and Government Relations Committee voted to write a letter in support of County proposed ban.

Motion to approve sending letter of support of gas leaf blower ban to the County

Moved by L. Bode, seconded by D. White

Motion passed with a vote of 10 in favor and 3 opposed.

ii. Community Creek Maintenance & Flood Preparedness

Mitch Chupack and Laura Tompkins

Presentation given and discussion regarding sediment buildup, clogged underpasses, eroding creek banks and an undersized bridge along the San Leandro Creek corridor. The bridge has not been cleared since 2018, and Caltrans plans to clear the underpasses. The San Leandro Lane bridge carries important utility lines and may be vulnerable during a major storm. It was presented that a letter of support from the Montecito Association for flood control to the County and Caltrans would be helpful. Aida Thau with Supervisor Lee's office has been holding meetings within neighborhoods and is happy to coordinate with the MA for community awareness and attendance. FEMA designated flood areas. The county is working with Assemblymember Gregg Hart to see if Caltrans can clear under the bridge.

VIII. Committee Reports

Events Committee: announced the next Beautification Day will be held on November 7th from 9am to 1pm. There will be limited tabletops, Miramar will provide breakfast. The first planning meeting will be held on September 9th at the Firehouse at 4 pm.

IX. Old Business-None

X. New Business-1) Bill Macfadyen and Houghton Hyatt have been discussing a Montecito Association podcast-*Montecito Matters* and will launch once a month to create awareness of the MA. There will be 20–30-minute episodes and will include follow-ups in the MA newsletters, website and social media. Purpose is to showcase the value of what the MA does and to regularly engage listeners to become members and have endless content.

2) Bill Macfadyen proposed a Finance Committee by acclamation to operate during the transition of Houghton Hyatt to an employee. The executive director's job description to be revised for September. Rock Rockenbach to refer a pro bono firm for 501c3 creation.

Adjourned 5:40 p.m.