

Santa Margarita Area Advisory Council
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**7 PM, Wednesday, April 1, 2015 Santa Margarita Community Hall 22501 I Street,
Santa Margarita, CA 93453
MINUTES, April 1, 2015**

Members Present: Joe Patterson, JoAnn Head, Sophie Treder, Bob Righetti, Jeremy Burns, Stuart Souza, George Sullivan, Butch Pope, Richard Gayou, Dana Tryde, Sue Christian, Tamara Kleemann, Guy Rathbun, Steve Rossi, new members Cheryl Cole and Ken Haggard.

1. Call to order – 7:07 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of the minutes from the previous meetings – No minutes available for the previous meeting. Secretary Robert Stockel not present. Draft minutes for the February 2015 meeting circulated by Sophie Treder. February minutes approved unanimously, Steve Rossi and Butch Pope abstaining.

4. Approval of the agenda – Agenda approved unanimously.

5. Review of Meeting Structure

a. Audio/Video Recorders are not provided by SMAAC

b. SMAAC meeting procedure for project review

c. Rules for presenting testimony

d. Agenda item requests – submit requests no later than ten days prior to meeting.

Requests to be submitted through representatives to Chairman. Late requests must be submitted in writing and may be included in the agenda at the Chairman’s discretion.

6. Membership

a. Elections Committee to announce election results – George Sullivan provided the elections results. Thanked Tamara Kleemann, Stuart Souza, and Doug Filipponi for volunteering at the polls. All who were running unopposed won. For the Tassajara Canyon contest, the vote was 12 for Ken Haggard, 9 for Bill Borgsmiller. Ken Haggard is now voted in for a 2 year term representing Tassajara. The Chair gave a recap of the membership and terms remaining for each area. There is one open seat in Las Pilitas, as Joe Fariss has vacated his seat, and one open seat for Rinconada, as Mike Whiteford vacated his seat.

b. Invite new council members to join the council - At this point Cheryl Cole and Ken Haggard were seated.

7. Officers – The election for officers was conducted by secret ballot.

a. Chairperson, Joe Patterson was nominated and elected unanimously.

Vice-Chairperson Dana Tryde was nominated and elected unanimously.

Secretary, Sophie Treder was nominated and elected unanimously.

Treasurer JoAnn Head was nominated and elected unanimously.

8. Committees – Will be tabled until next meeting as allowed by the bylaws. However, the Chair asked everyone to consider whether Elections needed to be a “standing committee”

per our bylaws, or whether it could simply be an ad hoc committee formed each year from people who were not currently running. It was agreed that it would be discussed at our next meeting.

9. Public Safety – None.

a. Cal Fire / County Fire Department

b. Sheriff's Department

c. Highway Patrol

d. Other Agencies

10. CSA 23 Update – Mrs. Church, a new member of CSA 23, introduced herself and gave the report. She said they had a new board on CSA 23 and they look forward to working with everyone. They are looking at perhaps recruiting some Cal Poly planning students to do a survey of public safety/works issues and concerns in the downtown area. Sophie Treder volunteered the services of a Cal Poly planning student who is currently interning in her office. Chairman Patterson asked for an update on the downtown restriping project. CSA 23's understanding was that Public Works needed a vote even for it to move forward; CSA 23 voted in favor of continuing the discussions with Caltrans, but there is nothing definitive.

11. Open comment

a. Public announcements and comments regarding items not on the agenda – None.

b. Council announcements and comments regarding items not on the agenda – Guy Rathbun asked whether anyone had heard rumors of CSA 23 possibly being folded into SMAAC. No one had heard anything to that effect, and it was agreed that was not likely to happen as the groups each have a somewhat different focus.

12. New Business –

a. Speers E-Referral – Verizon Tower Holly Phipps from the County gave the presentation, no applicant representative was present. This is a CUP for a new Verizon tower, proposing a fake water tank. It would be at 5900 Templeton Rd in Atascadero. This meant that it is not within our area, therefore no action taken.

b. Milburn E-Referral – Conditional Certificate of Compliance Jessica with Siems & Co Builders gave the presentation. This is an antiquated illegal subdivision that no one realized was never recorded under the SMA. There will be a nice custom built home on the property, and nearly all the rest of the permitting process has been completed, so this is a clean-up item. Everything else is proper. The Council had some clarifying questions regarding location, and general comments regarding the difficulty of adhering to the SMA, and how common this sort of thing was back then. Holly Phipps concurred that everything looked in order from, the County's perspective. Ken Haggard moved that the Council report that it has no objections, George Sullivan 2nd, MPU.

c. County Public Works – John Diodati – SGMA update Q&A John Diodati gave the presentation for Public Works. The application to form the Paso Robles Water District is going before BOS on April 21, after that it goes to LAFCO, they will likely deliberate summer and fall. Although Santa Margarita is technically part of the Paso Basin, the Supervisors voted not to make Santa Margarita part of the Paso Robles Water District, so we will not be

part of the LAFCO application. We are just a positive sphere of influence. However, we will still need to comply with SGMA by having a GSA that cover us.

Chairman Patterson opened it up for comment. David Church introduced himself, he is the executive officer for LAFCO, and he also lives in Santa Margarita. Anyone with questions on the process can email him or look at the resources on the LAFCO website regarding how the district will be formed.

George Sullivan had some general comments regarding water management. Sophie Treder asked if the Atascadero Subbasin could be added back in during the LAFCO process, despite the fact that the BOS voted to exclude it. Mr. Church said yes, it could happen, though it seemed unlikely. Joe Patterson and Dana Tryde asked some clarifying questions regarding who would be responsible for governing the various areas and the interaction. Sophie Treder asked whether LAFCO might end up designating a sphere of influence for the AB 2453 District that extended beyond the Paso Basin Boundaries, to represent the watershed, for instance. Mr. Church answered again that it was possible, but not likely.

Gwen Pelfrey from the public, a Templeton resident, asked some additional clarifying questions. Additional council and public comment ensued. John Diodati reported that Assemblyman Paria introduced a bill allowing mutual water companies to be a GSA under SGMA that will need to go through the regular lawmaking process. It was noted that Atascadero Mutual has already been having meetings in anticipation of that occurring. There will be a webcast meeting on April 17th from Sacramento to inform people on how to apply for Prop 1 grants. It was also noted that there was a list-serve on the DWR website, where people who are interested in SGMA and Prop 1 updates can go and enter their email to get updates. SLO LAFCO also has a list-serve. They meet the 3rd Thursday of every month, 9 am in the BOS Chambers.

d. Water Discussion – RMS Subcommittee The RMS Committee of Joe Patterson, Sophie Treder, JoAnn Head and Stuart Souza gave the report (Doug Filipponi not present). Initially there had been a number of concerns with the RMS, especially regarding groundwater resources and school impact fees in Santa Margarita and Garden Farms. However, the Committee had been communicating their concerns to the Planning Department, and Planning had been very receptive, and would be making changes in the final version of the RMS Report, which is due out in a few days. The BOS will be considering the final report on May 5, 2015. Following the Committee's report, it was opened for general comments: Gwen Pelfrey from Templeton noted that Quimby fees do not have to stay within the community for which they were paid. She also wanted to commend the Committee for acting so quickly and so professionally, and said it is impressive what they have accomplished, as far as getting a response from Planning and getting local circumstances accurately reflected in these large reports.. Really shows what an advisory group can do, and what their purpose is. Chairman Patterson and the committee had a lot of praise for the receptiveness and responsiveness of County Staff, particularly Directors Jim Bergman and Wade Horton. Chairman Patterson asked whether anyone had any objections to the way the Committee has handled this and the communications protocol with Planning Staff, otherwise we will continue as we have. No objections were raised.

13. Continued Business – None.

14. Treasurer’s Report – JoAnn Head gave the report. All banks are now requiring a fictitious business name and a tax id number, which we do not have. All other CACs seem to have avoided this by staying with their original bank and being “grandfathered in” under the Patriot Act. The matter was referred to Supervisor Arnold’s office to help figure out a solution.

15. Public Information Committee Report – The committee reported that they used the website a little for the election information, and will post election results now that they are certified.

16. 5th District Supervisor’s Report – Supervisor Arnold gave the report. The cemetery expansion application is proceeding apace. The Nacimiento Pipeline is finally coming back online, which will add another 18,000 acre-feet to the water budget. The Board recently received a drought reliability update. The water supplies county-wide are relatively stable (estimated to sustain us overall), but there will be a big fire threat. The Paso Robles Water District LAFCO application is coming up before the Board, as mentioned, on April 21. Assuming the Board votes to go forward with the application, potentially affected landowners should monitor this very closely, as this will be an extra layer of government that will have extraordinary regulatory and taxation powers. This will be in addition to the powers of the County Flood Control District.

17. Chairman’s report – Chairman Patterson gave the report. He would like to make the Supervisor’s report a floating agenda item; depending on what else is on the agenda it might come at the beginning or at the end. This will allow some flexibility for Supervisor Arnold to coordinate her schedule with her other commitments as necessary. Joe asked for volunteers for a two-person LAFCO committee to monitor the Paso Robles Water District formation, and how it will affect us. Steve Rossi agreed to chair, JoAnn Head will also serve.

18. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned unanimously at 9:35 pm.

a. Next Meeting – May 6, 2015 at 7:00pm