

## MINUTES

Santa Margarita Area Advisory Council

[www.smaaonline.org](http://www.smaaonline.org)

7 PM, Wednesday, May 6, 2015

Santa Margarita Community Hall

22501 I Street, Santa Margarita, CA 93453

**Members Present:** Sophie Treder, Tamara Kleeman, Jeremy Burns, Stuart Souza, Joe Patterson, George Sullivan, Sue Christian, JoAnn Head, Bob Righetti, Cheryl Cole, Guy Rathbun, Robert Stockel, and John Beccia. 15 people in audience.

1. **Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Approval of the Previous Minutes:** Motion to approve the April minutes by Guy Rathbun, John Beccia 2<sup>nd</sup>. MPU Robert Stockel abstained.
4. **Approval of Agenda:** The Chair had one change to Item 10b, adding a brief discussion of the Countywide Water Conservation Program. Agenda approved unanimously as amended.
5. **Review of meeting structure**—the Chair briefly reviewed the meeting structure rules.
6. **5th District Supervisor's Report:** Supervisor Arnold gave the report. She recapped the vote and discussion on the RMS report. Noted that the cemetery expansion was approved. There has been preliminary talk initiated by Supervisor Mecham, regarding the possibility of raising the Santa Margarita Lake Dam. Talks have begun with the Army Corps of Engineers.
7. **Public safety reports:** None.
8. **CSA 23:** Jacob Hernandez spoke from CSA 23. No major update, just continuous monitoring of the RMS
9. **New Business**
  - a. None.
  - b. Chair noted that the Las Pilitas Appeal hearing will be next Tuesday. There was also an announcement regarding the upcoming closure of the southbound offramp. It will be a week-long closure starting on Monday, with scattered closures after that.

## 10. Continued Business

- a. Rob Rossi gave an update on the trail from Garden Farms to Margarita. The donation will come from Garden Farms all along the backside of town, and the donation is wide enough for both a Class I paved bike lane and a separate equestrian trail. The land has been donated, but now it is a matter of raising money to build the trail. County estimates \$500,000 to pave it and fence it, etc. Proposed idea of hosting a Neil Young concert at the Ranch, with the proceeds going towards construction of the trail. Details of the concert have yet to be determined, but likely at the headquarters, and a permit would be applied for at the County. This is a preliminary discussion looking for whether the community would support something like this. Size unknown but likely it would be around the size of Savor—5-6K. The Council had a few clarifying questions regarding expected size, traffic, etc. MAMA Group is interested in an annual festival, but that is very early in discussions and not related to this. Joe Patterson noted that the concert idea has 100% support in Garden Farms from everyone he's talked to.

Mrs. Church asked questions regarding the nature of the fencing for the trail and access points which were clarified. There was additional discussion regarding the larger County trail plan, the equestrian staging area for the Garden Farms trail, and the access points.

11. **RMS Update-** Joe attended the BOS hearing and gave a report on the minor changes. They did change the info regarding the Pozo Valley Basin in accordance with the SMAAC Committee comments. Joe spoke regarding the uncertainty of the depiction of the Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin- evidently it comes from a public works document. It may be a groundwater basin in a different strata, but we will be following up with public works to confirm that. There were a number of discussions regarding parks and objecting to the way in which the LOS was calculated. Unfortunately, Staff did not agree, and Santa Margarita was calculated as LOS III for parks. Santa Margarita was deemed LOS I for septic because of a few failing septic systems. Ultimately the Board voted 4-1 to approve the RMS with the day-of clarifications provided by Planning Staff.
12. **Treasurer's Report:** JoAnn Head gave the report—no change, still wrestling with banking account issues.
13. **Chairman's Report:** Individuals wishing to be appointed to the standing committees should express interest to the Chair.
14. Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.