

Santa Margarita Area Advisory Council

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7 PM, Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Santa Margarita Community Hall

Santa Margarita, CA 93453

Minutes: October 7, 2015

Members Present: Sophie Treder, JoAnn Head, Bob Righetti, Jeremy Burns, Stuart Souza, Joe Patterson, Richard Gayou, Tamara Kleemann, Dana Tryde, George Sullivan, Sue Christian, Butch Pope, Gary Rathbun, Steve Rossi, John Beccia, and Robert Stockel

1. **Call to order - 7:03 pm.**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance.**
3. **Minutes:** Approval of Prior Minutes: MTA the August minutes by George Sullivan with a correction to the spelling of Robert Stockel's name; 2nd by Steve Rossi; MPU, with John Beccia abstaining. MTA the May minutes by George Sullivan, 2nd by Dana Tryde, MPU with Richard Gayou and Butch Pope abstaining. MTA the September minutes by Robert Stockel, 2nd by Tamara Kleemann, MPU with Steve Rossi and Joe Patterson abstaining.
4. **Approval of the Agenda:** MTA agenda by Butch Pope and 2nd by Guy Rathbun, MPU.
5. **Review of Meeting Structure:** The Chair reviewed the meeting structure.
6. **Fifth District Supervisor's Report:** Supervisor Arnold gave the report. Recently there was an agreement approved for the tie-in between Atascadero Mutual Water Co and CSA 23, although there was an issue that needed to be addressed re: the export ordinance. The hearing on the Countywide Water Conservation Ordinance has been scheduled for October 27th. November 10th is the scheduled discussion for approving the LAFCO formation of the Paso Robles Water District and send that to the voters. They will also be creating a "zone of benefit" under the Flood Control District on that date in the event that the water district is not approved. It is not completely clear that the Atascadero Subbasin will be excluded by the state, so it could still impact Santa Margarita. On the good news side, homelessness in the County is down. Road maintenance locally has been fully funded. We are prioritizing our extra general fund money into our roads. The Supervisors have been asked to study community choice

aggregation for energy, so we will be hearing more about that, as there are lots of questions. George Sullivan noted that some of the people who are working on the community choice aggregation are volunteers, which makes him a little suspicious of creating a new entity to move energy around on paper, but not create new energy. Joe Patterson asked clarifying questions about PG&E's regulation by the CPUC.

7. **Public Safety:** None

8. **CSA 23** – Connie Church gave the report. The water rate increase was successfully protested by one vote, so CSA 23 has been working with Public Works to prepare another proposal. The latest proposal is \$66,000 more, because of the loan from the GF to cover the interim, and there is new language that reductions can occur in certain circumstances. Sophie Treder asked whether it was normal for the County to charge itself interest on a loan, and where the 6.8% interest rate came from. Joe Patterson noted that Wade Horton from Public Works had asked to present at SMAAC on this.

9. **Open Comment:**

- a. Public: None.
- b. Council: George Sullivan noted that COLAB would be hosting a fall forum with speakers such as Sam Blakslee at the Holland Ranch on October 8th at 5:30 p.m. for those interested.

10. **New Business:**

- a. a. Brians Lot Line Adjustment: Alan Volbrecht made the presentation for the applicant. This is being done for inheritance purposes; there are two sons, who would each like to inherit a parcel. Robert Stockel asked a clarifying question regarding the parcel sizes—it was clarified that what is being proposed is lots of 3.76 and 3.22. George Sullivan moved to support and Butch Pope 2nded. Joe Patterson noted that Holly Phipps had emailed that she would not be able to attend, but that there would be some split zoning that would need to be addressed in the future. Hopefully it could be addressed in the next cycle of the General Plan update. Holly's email noted that SMAAC should address whether the proposed LL adjustment is better than or equal to the existing situation. George Sullivan noted that neither of the existing lots are conforming to the zoning, and so this was either equal or an improvement, depending on how one viewed it. Robert Stockel noted that it might already have split zoning. Alan Volbrecht acknowledged that was a bit of a surprise, and that the County's map might not be accurate, since zoning should be drawn along parcel lines, but that it was something the applicant was aware of and would address through the County. George Sullivan amended his motion

to move that: The Council support the Lot Line adjustment as equal to or better than the situation that exists with the existing lots. Butch Pope amended his 2nd. Discussion on the motion: John Beccia noted his concerns with the split zoning. Tamara Kleemann and Dana Tryde raised concerns with the wording of the motion. Joe Patterson called for the question: MP with 11 in favor, 3 opposed (Sue Christian, Robert Stockel, and Dana Tryde), and 2 abstentions (John Beccia and Tamara Kleemann).

- b. Wilderness Event: Rob Rossi gave the presentation. He discussed the experience of the organizers. This would be a camping-associated event and would last 4 days. Likely very similar to Live Oak, but also with talks similar to TED Talks, etc. The organizers have experience with MAMA and Bonnaroo, part of which is now being organized by the same folks who do entertainment at the Mid-State Fair, and therefore have local experience. They are looking at the first weekend in May. It is not like a concert where the traffic comes all at once; the traffic sort of “strolls in” over time, but they do have a traffic consultant who will be looking at this. They are hoping to have 5 Wilderness events around the world: Asia, England, and this would also be one. The San Francisco event sells out in 2 hours. Dana Tryde asked a question regarding the permit. Jamie Kirk noted that they would be applying for permits under Title 6, which go directly to the BOS and must be acted on within 60 days of submittal. Public Comment: Ron DeCarli: Is this at the Ranch Headquarters? Rob Rossi clarified that it would be further out in the Ranch, and they are considering three locations and will be getting the input of the fire department. Joel Anderson asked about access. Answer was that access would depend on the location that is selected. Council members asked clarifying questions regarding size. John Beccia noted that the County had recently approved a festival for 3,000 campers. George Sullivan noted that he wanted to disclose that he owns property that would be passed by traffic regardless of location, but that the access road off of Wilhelmina might present dust issues if that location is chosen. Council members did not raise any other concerns at this time.
- c. Highway 101 Corridor Update: Ron DeCarli from SLOCOG gave the presentation. He noted that they were asked to speak about the Highway 101 corridor study. Understands that the community’s concerns are the 101/58 interchange, access from surface streets on 101 like Tassajara Creek, and to some extent El Camino Real through town. Therefore, his presentation focused on those items. SLOCOG gave a powerpoint presentation that can be made available to folks upon request within a reasonable time. There have been numerous previous studies on 101, but none specifically addressing the area between Hwy 58 and the Cuesta Grade. This is also a recently identified problem spot just north of the Grade. However, SLOCOG is facing significant

budget constraints. He called the future budget situation dismal, and noted that there was barely enough money for maintenance, and no annual budget for any major projects going forward unless something changes. He gave an overview of the time it takes to get a project from planning to fruition, regardless of funding.

Larry Newland from Caltrans also presented. He noted that the difference between a freeway and a highway is access control. There is no uncontrolled access on a designated freeway, such as now exists with Tassajara Creek Rd. Freeway conversions and roundabouts are sort of the engineering solutions de jour. But the jury is still out on what the best ideas are, and it will take all of us working together to solve it. Caltrans is currently looking at projects that came out of the corridor study. Like for SLOCOG, Shell Beach Straits is a priority.

Council and Public Comments and Questions: George Sullivan provided some background on his discussions with Katcho and Tim Gubbins regarding this project and the point that we are at as a Council in our efforts to prioritize this project. The issue is that other problems continue to get worse as we wait. Supervisor Arnold made some clarifying comments. Joe Patterson asked some questions and made some points about the need for an additional road from Santa Margarita to San Luis Obispo in case of a major disaster, and how to prioritize this. John Beccia commented as a Tassajara resident that the turn lane is probably the most significant safety issue. Larry Newland clarified that the Dept of Finance won't let Caltrans do project initiation documents unless there is a reasonable probability of a funding source. Butch Pope asked why there was a zero line item in SLOCOG's budget if he is still paying gas tax at the pump. The answer is it is largely going to Caltrans for operations and maintenance, there is no longer a surplus to go to SLOCOG. Joel Anderson from the public noted the economic depression in this area, and that raising taxes is not a great option; but then he hears about events like the ones at the Ranch, so why couldn't some of those revenues from events that will be impacting our community go to these local projects. Bob Righetti noted that with the hybrid cars and the lack of revenue, why isn't there a tax on the hybrids to generate an income, as well as a tax on bicyclists using the highway. Larry Newland noted that Caltrans cannot take positions on proposed taxes or legislation, although SLOCOG can. Sophie Treder asked a question about prioritization of SLOCOG funding, and how we ensure that money is not spent on long range, luxury planning items like the Salinas Trail Master Plan and instead is allocated to immediate needs. The answer was essentially that the lack of funding this year was a surprise. Robert Stockel asked if it would be helpful for the Council to write an additional letter about the local needs.

Larry Newland said maybe, but that what helps is making a lot of noise with a logical cohesive argument. Ron DeCarli suggested that SMAAC send a letter to SLOCOG addressed to the Chair and ccing Caltrans asking them to immediately start project initiation documents for our desired project. Contact info for Larry Newland: (805) 549-3103, or larry.newland@dot.ca.gov Ron DeCarli can be reached at (805) 781-4219 or rondecarli@slocog.org

11. **Continued Business:** None.
12. **Treasurer's report.** JoAnn Head gave the report: The immediate balance was not available, but the PO Box has been paid.
13. **Public Information Committee:** None.
14. **Chairman's Report:** The Chair would like to reactivate the frontage road committee to prepare a letter to SLOCOG and Caltrans. Asked for volunteers. George Sullivan agreed to Chair, Steve Rossi and Joe Patterson volunteered as well. Also believes that the SLO PermitView website has the SMAAC boundaries incorrectly. We need to provide corrections to the County. Would like the bylaws committee to redraw the boundaries to represent what is in the bylaws to provide to the County GIS guy. The Committee should share the proposed map with the Council via email before the next meeting. Also wanted to have a short discussion with the Council regarding the roles of councilmembers and alternates, and the extent to which that implicates the bylaws. We should be cautious about the use of alternates since we are elected, but our alternates are appointed. Bylaws committee should put recommendations together as far as, in general, what should be the roles of the officers, the councilmembers, and the alternates, since this is not the first time this has come up. George Sullivan also volunteered to be on the bylaws committee.
15. **Meeting adjourned at 9:46 pm.**