

# Santa Margarita Area Advisory Council

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7 PM, Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Santa Margarita Community Hall

Santa Margarita, CA 93453

## Minutes: November 4, 2015

**Members Present:** Sophie Treder, JoAnn Head, Bob Righetti, Jeremy Burns, Joe Patterson, Richard Gayou, Tamara Kleemann, Dana Tryde, George Sullivan, Guy Rathbun, and Wade Cromley

1. **Call to order - 7:04 pm.**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance.**
3. **Minutes:** Discussion on October minutes ensued, and the issue of how to encapsulate the actual concerns behind the votes in the future was raised and discussed. It was agreed to take that issue up during the discussion of the bylaws. Joe Patterson asked a question of Supervisor Arnold regarding the SLOCOG funding that was discussed at the October meeting, and Supervisor Arnold gave a detailed explanation. Motion to approve the October minutes by George Sullivan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeremy Burns. Motion passed with one abstention (Guy Rathbun).
4. **Approval of the Agenda:** Motion to Approve by Jeremy Burns, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Guy Rathbun, MPU.
5. **Review of Meeting Structure:** The Chairman reviewed the meeting structure.
6. **Fifth District Supervisor's Report:** Supervisor Arnold gave the report. At a meeting earlier today, SLOCOG rolled out "transit tracker" signs that will allow people to find out the status of the buses while they are waiting. There will be signs posted at every bus stop in Santa Margarita. There was also an update on the homelessness count, and that it decreased by 31% compared to 2013 (as counted in January 2015). In 2013, there were 2186 homeless individuals, and that had dropped to 1515 by 2015. The number of homeless veterans decreased by 45%. Last week the Countywide Water Conservation Program was voted on and passed 3-2, which is the replacement for the PRGWB Urgency Ordinance. There are Countywide components as well, and a policy change which says that net increases in water use should be avoided countywide. The

problem with this as a countywide policy and why she voted against it is that it creates winners and losers, and haves and have nots. Moreover, it does not apply to all water users in a given area, such as the incorporated cities. Believes the new SGMA law is a better tool for ensuring fair distribution of water. Adjudication is also another tool. In Santa Margarita there will be a new Prop 218 vote for the CSA 23 water rates. Because the last vote failed, the County General Fund is loaning CSA 23 \$60,000, plus new rates will need to go into effect to cover costs. That will go before the Board on December 15<sup>th</sup>, and protest notices have recently been mailed out to all users. Next week is a hearing on the creation of a zone of benefit for SGMA compliance in the Paso Robles Basin, and asking for funding for that as part of the ballot that will go out for the AB 2453 Water District. The problem with the vote is that it is not known yet and won't be known until March whether the funding will go to the County Flood Control and Water Conservation District or the new Paso Robles Groundwater Basin. Sophie Treder asked whether zones of benefit would be created for other basins in the County that need to be SGMA compliant. At this time, it is only Paso Robles. George Sullivan noted general concerns regarding lack of accountability in government for costs, etc., particularly as related to the CSA 23 Prop 218 vote. Bob Righetti noted that part of the problem is environmental regulation—everyone is selling sandbags in preparation for El Nino, but we can't get a stream cleaned up. Every living thing, every limb takes water. We wouldn't have the water shortages if land could be maintained easier, but regulation has shut that down. The Corps of Engineers used to be proactive and actual engineers doing projects; today they are just an environmental regulatory branch of government. Joe Patterson noted that next month the County would be coming to SMAAC to talk about storm preparation and creek cleanup. Dana Tryde asked to move on to other agenda items at this point. George Sullivan noted his support for Supervisor Arnold's vote on the Countywide Water Conservation Ordinance.

7. **Public Safety:** None. Joe Patterson brought to the Council's attention that Cal Fire will be doing a prescribed burn in the Pozo/California Valley area on Friday. The private property is 9 miles northeast of Pozo, 12 miles northwest of California Valley. Local residents will pro.
8. **CSA 23** – Jacob Hernandez reported that there was no new information, as CSA 23 has not had a meeting since SMAAC's last meeting.
9. **Open Comment:**
  - a. Public: Gary Havaz from SLO Bike Club provided information on the annual Wildflower Ride on April 23, 2016. They are seeking volunteers outside the Bike Club, and are specifically looking for 4 members from the community to volunteer at the Parkhill Fire Station rest stop. They should be done by about

11 a.m. Volunteers will get a T-shirt and a free ticket to the after ride BBQ and the volunteer banquet the week after. Interested people can contact him at [vice-president@slobc.org](mailto:vice-president@slobc.org) or 458-0755.

b. Council: None.

10. **New Business—Request Broadcasting of BOS Meetings:** George Sullivan moved that Debbie Arnold champion the reestablishment of radio broadcasting of the Board of Supervisors meetings, 2<sup>nd</sup> by JoAnn Head. Discussion ensued regarding the motion. Motion and second withdrawn following discussion. Instead, it was decided to form a committee to review previous efforts and research on this topic by Council and community members, and draft a letter. Chair of the Committee will be Sophie Treder, and Tamara Kleemann and Guy Rathbun will support because of their previous research and expertise.
11. **Continued Business:** George Sullivan gave the report. He had a draft letter to the BOS, Caltrans, and SLOCOG which he passed out to the Council and explained. JoAnn Head suggested adding something to the letter about the concerns if there were a mudslide on the grade similar to what happened on the Grapevine. It was agreed that edits to the letter could be made via email, and the final draft would be presented at the December meeting.
12. **Bylaws –** The Bylaws Committee presented their report and asked for Council input on various changes regarding the use of alternates, meeting attendance, the roles of officers and conflicts of interest. The Council provided unified direction on each issue. The changes will be incorporated and a first reading of the proposed amendments will occur in December.
13. **Treasurer’s report.** JoAnn Head gave the report: \$511.12 in the account.
14. **Public Information Committee:** None present.
15. **Chairman’s Report:** Chair noted the upcoming topics and it was decided to move the Phillips 66 presentation to February or March in light of the El Nino presentation and the Bylaws that will be coming back in December.
16. **Meeting adjourned at 9:31 pm.**