



**Los Osos Community Advisory Council**  
**December 10, 2020**  
**7PM Zoom**

The meeting was **called to order**, the **roll call** was taken. Present were Chair Tim Carstairs, Trish Bartel as Co-host, Sue Morgenthaler as Secretary, Christine Womack as Treasurer, Sandra Sarrouf, Larry Bender, Lynette Tornatzky as Communications Officer, Jim Stanfill, Jan Harper, and Yael Korin.

**Commander Stuart MacDonald** started the reports with the **Sheriff's** service calls in Los Osos from November 10-December 10. There were 71 calls, the same in comparison to this time last year. The calls ran from burglaries and thefts to suspicious circumstances, to preventative patrols and COVID19 compliance checks, now a daily occurrence.

**CHP Captain Greg Klingenberg** introduced himself as the newest Captain for our area. He reported collisions, a hit and run, an injury collision and 2 DUIs from this past month. The majority of collisions are generally due to unsafe speeds for the conditions, most occurring on Los Osos Valley Rd within the Los Osos area.

**Supervisor Bruce Gibson** expressed his excitement for having the LOCP and the Los Osos Vacation Rental Ordinance finally coming up for review with the Board of Supervisors. Also hearing these plans will be the newest Supervisor, Dawn Ortiz-Legg.

Much of the Board's time is taken up dealing with COVID19. Cases are surging as expected now, 2 weeks after the Thanksgiving holiday. In SLO County, the availability of hospital beds is still good, running around 62%. We have a couple hundred beds at Cal Poly also waiting to be used. The Supervisor was asked 'at what point do we start sharing our hospital beds with people from other counties?' The answer was that if we have resources to provide, we will provide them, the question though is that of mobility.

Along with Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, the SLO County Supervisors authorized a letter be sent to the Governor asking that when the current restrictions come off, these 3 counties be considered their own region. This is felt a fair request based on a good public health science.

The Supervisor is looking to appoint a replacement from our district to the Water Resources Advisory Committee, a group with 40 members representative of each city and Community Services District in the County. This committee makes recommendations to the Board on water issues.

The Supervisors continue their work on budget priorities, sea level rise, and all other county issues they are involved in.

There was a lot of discussion to the question of 'do we have a sustainable water supply, one that can handle growth?' The steps to reaching this level come in phases, not moving from one to another until the goals of the previous phase have been achieved. It is largely in the hands of water purveyors at this point as to how things will move forward. The keys to this question are what and how much needs to be done, the cost, and how that will be paid for.

A Los Osos resident ask to whom she might speak about replacing signs that have been damaged and removed from the hiking trail at the end of Broderson. These signs asked hikers to where masks and distance themselves. She was referred to Blake Fixler for finding the appropriate person at the County to speak to.

**Kerry Brown from the Planning and Building Department** announced the Supervisors meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup> when the Board will consider the Los Osos Community Plan, the Los Osos Habitat Conservation Plan, a Memorandum of Understanding with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Growth Management Plan, both EIRs and the Los Osos Vacation Rental Ordinance Amendment.

When asked what was going on in the Morro Dunes Ecological Reserve, she responded by saying restoration projects. These projects include veldt grass removal, the potential closure of some trails, and habitat enhancement and management.

**CSD's Chuck Cesena** announced an election of new officers for the CSD, there are open positions on the emergency services, parks and rec, and the utility advisory committees.

He discussed ongoing infrastructure projects with the individual wells and summarized a letter written by the CSD in response to portions of the LOCP.

The concern identified to the Supervisors is the actual ability of the basin to support the existing population. The math for the LOCP decisions only uses basin yield metrics, it is not inclusive of all 4 metrics (Basin yield, Chlorides, water level, and nitrates). When used together, these metrics tell a different story. They tell him we will not be able to reach the prescribed goals until perhaps 2033. The plan also lacks a funding mechanism for achieving their goals.

Also discussed in regards for funding these water challenges was the conversation about the fact that at the moment, those in the sewer district are paying the load while areas outside the sewer district, although not on the sewer lines, are using water from the same aquifer and are

also benefiting from the Recycling system operated through the sewer project. Perhaps it is time that costs should be spread evenly throughout the area, not restricted to those in the Prohibition Zone.

Someone asked if a house not in the sewer service area could connect to the sewers. Unfortunately, the permit issued by the California Coastal Commission designates a specific services line for this. Crossing that line is a complicated Land Use question.

**Lynette Tornatzky** announced the **Chamber of Commerce** Holiday Tree was lit without ceremony at the corner of Palisades and Los Osos Valley Road. There will be no Christmas Parade, but they are having a Light Up Los Osos event. Homes can submit themselves for consideration in this Holiday lighting contest. Local Business are offering a \$150 gift basket as the prize. Information can be found on the Chamber's Facebook Page.

**Christine Womack** gave the **Treasurer's Report**. Our balance is \$617.90 and the budget for next year has submitted.

**Minutes of the October meeting** were approved.

The **Traffic and Circulation Committee** had nothing to report, the **Trees and Landscaping Committee** announced they are meeting regularly and are waiting to get started on their El Moro Bike and Pedestrian Trail. Funding was halted due to COVID19.

**Sandra Sarrouf of the Outreach Committee** was commended for her terrific newsletter!

**The Unhoused Residents Forum** is scheduled for January 26<sup>th</sup> at 6PM. The committee is working on the panel and a format for the discussions. Yael asked Supervisor Gibson if the county has an online system other than Zoom they could use for the forum, they are looking at a Webinar.

Items on the **Consent Agenda** unanimously passed with a recommendation of approval. These items include:

**DRC2020-00156 CHUDGAR:** Proposed MUP to add 180 square feet to a house. Conforms with all county regulations, 1192 3<sup>rd</sup> St, Los Osos

**DRC2020-00164 LOIDA:** Proposed MUP to waive the fencing and screening standards to allow for a fence over 6.6' 1870 Fearn, Los Osos

**DRC2020-00201BYRNE:** Proposed MP for a vacation rental permit of a single-family residence at 2455 Jacaranda Lane, Los Osos

The item on the **Regular Agenda** was a request by Los Osos resident Jeff Krepps that **LOCAC write a letter** to the County Planning and Building Department regarding the need of a plan for

better neighborhood bicycle and pedestrian safety. He would like this sent to the Supervisors for their December 15<sup>th</sup> discussion of the Los Osos Community Plan.

The need for acknowledgement regarding the concerns of the residents of Los Osos for bicycle and pedestrian safety is real and everyone in the room agreed. We have very few sidewalks or bike lanes, so vehicles have to share the street with these pedestrians and cyclists. Residents are concerned as there have been no studies performed to determine what impact the LOCP's proposed new growth will have in the streets from their perspective.

Jeff has asked LOCAC to write the county asking that the County prioritize developing a Pedestrian and Active Transportation Plan that supports the LOCP before new growth proceeds.

While LOCAC is in agreement with the need for studies to determine the impact of new growth on our streets, several Council members were not willing to tie the completion of that study to a halting of growth.

LOCAC voted unanimously to write a letter in support of the concerns of the impacts new growth would have on our streets, asking the county to prioritize the development of a plan that supports the LOCP, doing so together with local residents, community groups, LOCAC, and county agencies to ensure multi modal access and safety.

There were no **Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda** and the amended and rewritten **Bylaws and Policies and Procedures Manual were unanimously adopted.**

At the beginning of 2020, LOCAC appointed a committee to go through the LOCAC Bylaws and Policies and Procedures Manual, updating, editing, rewriting, and when necessary, adding new procedures for the Council to follow. The committee deliberated for months, with a break in March and April for the onset of COVID19 and came up with 2 documents that were posted for Public and Council review. Comments were received by all, documents were reedited, then resubmitted to the Council for their approval. Sandra Sarrouf was Chair of the committee, members included Trish Bartel, Larry Bender, Lynette Tornatzky, Yael Korin, Sue Morgethaler, and Tim Carstairs.

**Meeting adjourned**

