



## LOS OSOS COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

March 25, 2021

Zoom Meeting 7PM

### MINUTES

The meeting was **Called to Order** and **Roll Call** was taken. Of the Council, present were Tim Carstairs as Chairperson, Trish Bartel as Co Host, Sue Morgenthaler, Larry Bender, Christine Womack, Jim Stanfill, Yael Korin, Jan Harper, and Lynette Tornatzky. Sandra Sarrouf was excused.

For his **Chairperson Announcements**, Tim Carstairs highlighted our Standards and Code of Conduct, explaining the importance that we all, public and council included, hold ourselves to high standards for positive civic engagement; encouraging respectful, courteous, and thoughtful discussion of ideas and opinions.

LOCAC welcomes all opinions on issues being discussed. If any public member or council member does not adhere to the standards of civic engagement as described in the LOCAC Policies and Procedures Manual, they will be given a warning. If a second warning is needed, the participant will be asked to leave the meeting or will be muted for the duration of the meeting. We thank everyone for participating with respect.

**Sheriff Stuart McDonald** summarized our 75 calls for service in February, up from 64 calls during that same period in 2020. They ranged from assaults, burglaries, mail thefts and phone scams (Social Security scam) to enforcement stops and the many ongoing preventative patrols and security checks.

**Highway Patrol Captain Greg Klingenberg** reported 8 collisions, 5 of which were property damage, and 3 involved injury. They responded to 1 DUI.

A Los Osos resident asked how CHP responses connect to SLO County Public Works. He wanted to know if any of the accidents are pedestrian related. Because our roads are multi-modal, it would be good to find ways to make them safer.

If collisions are prevalent in a certain area, the CHP will contact County Roads to do a study that would determine criteria are met to make changes at that location. The contact person is Mike Britton.

Before the county would consider a traffic light for a specific location, there are steps that can be taken. A stop sign could be set at an intersection, botts dots or flashing lights could be installed.

Los Osos Valley Road is a place where the CHP would like to focus their attention on more enforcement. They now have a new tool, our area has just been assigned a motorcycle officer, and they are hoping for another one or two in the future. They generally use the bikes for special enforcement areas.

**Kerry Brown** from the Planning and Building Department was unable to attend this evening, so **Supervisor Bruce Gibson** continued, starting with a big thanks to our host and keeper of the mute button!

The Supervisors are working on a countywide proposal to deal with encampments like those on Palisades. The hope is for safe parking programs and sanctioned encampments in a couple of months connecting folks to services. The County has access to new revenue streams to help with this. Meanwhile Supervisor Gibson and his Legislative Assistant Blake Fixler are working on projects such as trash clean up and public safety issues until the funding and programs are in place.

Vaccinations are going well although they are still based on vaccine supply. Presently the County has opened up vaccines to those aged 50 and over. On April 15, vaccinations in California should be open to all adults.

SLO County case numbers of COVID are drifting upwards at present so it is important we all stay watchful, even after we are vaccinated.

There are resources to help County residents pay their rent. Please go to [revocerslo.org](http://revocerslo.org) for more information or contact Supervisor Gibson's office directly.

Other areas of concern for the Supervisors than those just mentioned include sea level rise, county budgets, childcare, and rehab of an airport runway.

**Marshall Ochylsky gave the CSD report.** Last month, the CSD received their Brown Act training. They also heard a presentation by the county on potential grant money for electric recharging stations. They are looking to install a couple of stations in the South Bay Community Center parking lot.

Other CSD discussions center around Emergency Services and response times, the Program C well, and the Tenant Relief Act signed into law January 29<sup>th</sup>. This law contains eviction

protection and a rental assistance program, helping to pay of both rent and utility bills. Housingiskey.com is the website where one can apply for assistance.

If you would like to be up to date with the CSD, go to their website and sign up to be on the mailing list. losososcscsd.org

According to Lynette Tornatzky, **the Chamber of Commerce** is still lying low but always working behind the scenes, hoping to be able to host a live event at some point. Meanwhile they are looking to have an online event. The 2021 Directory should be ready in June.

While work has temporarily shut down their website, the Chamber can be found on their Facebook page LOBPChamber.

For **Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda**, Jeff Kreps requested that LOCAC discuss **Los Osos infrastructure and the 5-year plan**, he'd like to know where and when the County will be putting money into Los Osos during the next 5 years. Many projects have been identified, the library, South Bay Bridge reconstruction, exiting trails identified, drainage going directly into the bay...these need to be looked into and discussed.

Jan Harper, Chair of the Transportation and Circulation Committee, will contact Mike Britton, ask that he come to the next LOCAC meeting in April.

Linde has **concerns about what realtors and the county are telling land purchasers in Los Osos**. Are the realtors giving disclaimers regarding the truth of no growth? Are buyers aware of the challenges? In one case, she heard a buyer was told by our County offices that they would be able to build within 7 years.

Eve Grunfest asked **if Morro Shores will be asked by the county to comply with 2:1 water offsets**. LOCAC asked they do so, but it will be up to the County.

**The February minutes were approved.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Our only expense this month was \$29.98 for 2 months of our Zoom Room account. Our balance is \$1742.95, still awaiting our Invoice from the Chamber of Commerce. Vote was taken to accept the Treasurer's Report.

At the March meeting, the Los Osos Sustainability Group gave the **Land Use Committee** a presentation on the sustainability of our water supply, our aquifer.

Linde has agreed to tackle the task of putting together a list of the ministerial permits submitted to the County for Los Osos so that everyone can see what is going on here, not just the discretionary permits we are asked to review.

The **Traffic and Circulation Committee**, Jan Harper, will work on setting up a LOCAC presentation by Mike Britton, county engineer, a discussion of Los Osos infrastructure and our 5-year plan.

Questions were raised regarding the status of a comprehensive transportation study initiated by Mike Britton, a grant for a countywide pedestrian plan, a Los Osos evacuation route, the plan to narrow roads, and the status of a previously repaired section of Turri Road that is already deteriorating.

If you notice any issues out on the streets, call 805-781-5252 to report.

**Trees and Landscape** again showed frustration with their ability to work with the county. They want to move ahead with projects but are unable to.

It was reported that every week we seem to be losing a tree in Morro Shores. If they are sick, could there be another solution? Would it be possible to find out about these attempts at removing trees so that we could be a part of the process?

**The Unhoused Residents Committee** has identified short term and long term solutions, working with the county to implement some short term help for unhoused residents. Yael thanked Supervisor Gibson and Blake for helping them with this.

Linde said they are addressing Palisades as a priority. For this, they need to find a location as a long-term solution, a solution that can only be successful with acknowledgement, understanding, and help from the community.

Jim Stanfill thanked the Supervisor and Blake Fixler, Yael invited anyone interested to attend their meetings.

#### **From the Regular Agenda:**

**The Los Osos Sustainability Group** gave a presentation to LOCAC on our water supply. They came with a request, asking that we as LOCAC send a letter to the County Planning and Building Department with the following intent:

**The LOSG believes that, after 40 years of seawater intrusion, a comprehensive plan that requires conclusive evidence of results is long overdue. For the plan to be effective, it must use the most cost-effective and sustainable solutions available and require all those who enjoy the benefits of the Basin to be involved in the solution.**

- 1. The County approves no new development over the Basin until it can show with conclusive evidence that there is a sustainable water supply to support the current population and any proposed new development without harm to the Basin or other natural resources.**

2. **The County and Basin Management Committee maximize the most cost-effective and environmentally sustainable mitigation programs for seawater intrusion, low water level and nitrates in the near future to achieve measurable goals and objectives ASAP.**
3. **The County and BMC implement a Basin wide funding mechanism and ordinance within the year that spreads all basin related costs equitably to all users of the Basin's water and requires all users of the Basin to participate in programs, including water use efficiency programs and metering of all water use.**

The main goal of the LOSG is to provide a lasting sustainable water supply for Los Osos. The group is not opposed to development, they support smart growth that preserves and restores natural resources, including the Basin and its environmentally sensitive habitat.

Seawater intrusion caused by overdraft has destroyed a major part of our water supply over the past 40 years due to inadequate action and continues to destroy the Basin. We are threatened by the County plan to add 30% more development over the basin despite no evidence that the water supply is even sustainable for our current population.

LOSG sees 3 key elements to a solution:

**1-No new development is approved until the County can show conclusive evidence there is a sustainable water supply for the current population.** This would involve a network of accurate and reliable monitoring sites to show that measurable goals and objectives are met. Those goals would ensure that water levels are high enough, nitrate levels are low enough, and seawater intrusion fronts have retreated far enough for the Basin to support the current population and any proposed new development through droughts, climate change, and other adverse conditions without undesirable effects.

The BMC and Basin Plan have no clear and measurable water level and chloride objectives. The monitoring program has too few monitoring sites in the lower aquifers and it has reliability issues. The plan relies too heavily on uncertain modeling, estimates, and assumptions. In addition, the 2:1 retrofit required by Title 19 for new development does not assure a sustainable water supply.

**2-The County and BMC maximize the most cost effective and environmentally sustainable mitigation programs for seawater intrusion, low water level and nitrates ASAP to achieve measurable goals and objectives.** Sustainable mitigation programs recommended by the Basin Plan, Coastal Commission Staff, the CSU Monterey Bay Watershed Institute and other experts include: conservation, recycled water use, storm water recharge and reuse, leach fields for upper aquifer recharge, relocation wells, use of upper aquifer water for outdoor water use, and injection of the lower aquifer with recycled water or treated storm water.

**3-All basin related costs to be equitably spread throughout the Basin,** requiring all users to participate in programs, including water use efficiency programs and the metering of all water use.

There were many comments made, questions asked. Some of the information not already referred to includes:

Monitoring wells are important. 17 monitoring wells can be drilled at the expense of one expansion well. Understanding the basin is better with observation wells. At present, we do not even really know what the water level is in much of the basin.

Water conservation goes twice as far when implemented by people who are already here.

An appeal of the Wild Coast Farms project has been filed with the California Coastal Commission, not by LOSG but by Babak Naficy on their behalf. If searching for this case online, it will be located under the name Babak Naficy.

### **LOCAC Election Candidates Announced**

Candidates for the LOCAC Elections are now official. They are: District 1: Yael Korin; District 2: James Bishop; District 3: Larry Bender; District 4: Deborah Howe, Tom Cantwell, and Steve Vinson.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

