



Meeting Minutes

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY El Sobrante Municipal Advisory Council

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

7:00 PM El Sobrante Library (4300 Garden Rd. El
Sobrante) | Zoom:
<https://cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/87569145041>

Thomas Lang (Chair), George Cleveland (Vice-Chair), Tom Owens, Dr. Melinda V. McLain,
Jim Hermann, Randy Loyd, Mikki Norris, Teri Edlinger, Jedd Hart

Agenda Items: Items may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference of the Committee

1. Roll Call and Introductions

00:00:15

Present	George Cleveland, Teri Edlinger, Jedd Hart, James Hermann, Randy Loyd, Melinda McLain, Mikki Norris, and Tom Owens
Excused	Thomas Lang

2. Treasurer's Report

00:01:20

\$2,901.

3. Approval of Minutes

00:01:30

Owens moved to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2025, meeting, which are seconded by Lloyd.

This was approved.

[25-1269](#)

Attachments: [3.12.25_MeetingMinutes](#)

This Discussion Item was approved.

Motion: Owens

Second: Loyd

Aye: Cleveland, Hermann, Loyd, McLain, and Norris

Absent: Lang

Abstain: Edlinger, and Hart

Result: Passed

4. Presentations

00:03:06

Mills provided an update on a recent site visit to assess safety concerns along San Pablo Dam Road. The assessment focused on improving access, traffic flow, and driver awareness in the area. Several short and long term safety improvements were discussed, including updated signage, enhanced crosswalks, and signal timing changes. Mills shared that the next steps involve collecting more data, collaborating with nearby schools, and inviting a senior traffic engineer to present findings and recommendations at a future meeting. In response to a question from MAC member, Hart, Mills confirmed the need for improved crosswalks on San Pablo Dam Road.

P.1. County Update, Supervisor John Gioia

P.2. County's Urban Limit Line (ULL) and 65/35 Land Preservation Plan, Department of Conservation and Development (DCD)

John Kopchik, Director of the Department of Conservation and Development, provided an overview of the county's urban limit line, explaining its purpose in managing growth and preventing urban development beyond designated areas since its adoption in 1993. He noted that the current urban limit line measure is set to expire at the end of 2026 and that the renewal process is underway. Kopchik presented a map showing proposed expansions and contractions to the line and encouraged public input during the ongoing comment period. In response to a question about the renewal process, he explained that any extension of the urban limit line must be approved by a simple majority vote. Council members and attendees discussed how specific areas, including Bethel Island and Castro Ranch Road, might be affected by the proposed changes. The importance of community feedback was emphasized throughout the discussion.

P.3. Sheriff's Office Bay Station Update, Lt. Brian Holland

P.4. Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Update, Michelle Rinehart

Michele Rinehart, County Coordinator for Wildfire Mitigation and Grants, provided updates on the Local Responsibility Area (LRA) maps and the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). She noted that an online mapping tool is available for residents to identify their fire hazard severity zones. Additionally, Con Fire received approval to update the CWPP and is actively involving community members and stakeholders in the process. Michele also announced that Con Fire's Wildfire Community Preparedness Day will take place on May 3, featuring educational activities focused on wildfire response and preparedness.

P.5. California Highway Patrol (tentative)

Officer Gilmore of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) reported ongoing staffing challenges that have led to the dissolution of the Community Response Team. Despite these limitations, the CHP is prioritizing attendance at community meetings and increasing public outreach. Gilmore highlighted the use of community volunteers in identifying high-speed areas, which supports the agency's ability to secure traffic enforcement grants. He urged residents to report crimes with detailed vehicle and suspect descriptions. Community members raised concerns about excessive speeding on San Pablo Dam Road and Hilltop Drive, requesting more enforcement in those areas. In response to a question about citizen crime reporting, Gilmore emphasized the importance of detail and encouraged continued engagement. When asked about immigration status checks, Gilmore clarified that the CHP does not check status unless it pertains to a criminal investigation. He also directed attendees to the CHP website for

information on public records and available grants.

P.6 Elks Club Re-Introduction

The Elks Club's reintroduction is tabled for a future meeting due to the absence of their leadership.

5. Discussion Items: DI. Development plan applications, variance reports, building modification requests, appeals etc., received in the previous month from the Contra Costa County Conservation and Development Department and Notices of Public Hearings.

DI.1 - County File Number: CDDP25-03007 Request approval of a Development Plan to construct retaining walls in M-29 zoned parcel and request approval of Tree Permit to remove one code-protected tree. (ADDRESS: 5030 SAN PABLO DAM RD, EL SOBRANTE, CA 94803)

00:43:55

Cleveland introduced County File CDDP 25-03007, which outlines a proposed development plan for an apartment complex on Dam Road. After brief discussion, the group agreed to table the item until further information is available to allow for a more informed decision.

[25-1270](#)

Attachments: [Agency Comment Packet_CDDP25-03007](#)

DI.2 - (Update) Countywide Noise Ordinance

6. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two minutes).

01:15:15

Residents expressed concerns about RVs being used as residences on Dam Road and El Centro Avenue, emphasizing the need for consistent enforcement and the potential for setting a precedent. Some speakers called for balancing community standards with compassion for the unhoused and support for local service groups. An update was shared about the newly formed Indivisible West Contra Costa County Chapter, which holds peaceful demonstrations every Friday at San Pablo Dam Road and Afghan Way. A recent rally drew 250-400 participants, with the next event planned for April 19. Community response has been supportive, and no major issues have been reported.

7. Information Items

Information Reports by MAC members.

8. Subcommittee Reports – Next Clean Up, April 19, 2025, 930a-12p; Earth Day Community Celebration 11:45a-2p

00:44:24

Sue Boudreau, gave a presentation titled “How’s the Planet Doing?” The presentation explored the state of biodiversity and climate change both globally and locally, including the health of nature in the East Bay Hills and El Sobrante Valley. Topics included native wildlife species, such as trout, pumas, and

woodrats, as well as human impacts on ecosystems. Attendees were encouraged to reflect on their personal connection to nature and to take action through sustainable choices, like reducing meat consumption and using renewable energy. Boudreau also promoted upcoming nature engagement opportunities, including camera trap workshops for families to explore local wildlife through conservation science.

9. Agenda Items / Speakers for Upcoming ESMAC Meetings

01:15:57

Ongoing discussion regarding the noise ordinance. It was suggested by Ronnie to involve the county Task Force and the individual handling homelessness to provide updates on their efforts. The possibility of having the Task Force member attend a future meeting to discuss issues related to RVs and homelessness was considered, with scheduling and follow-up emphasized as key for their involvement. Additionally, a proposal was made to invite the DCD back in June to address the retaining wall issue, which was not covered in the current meeting. The next meeting's agenda was confirmed, and a request for any additional agenda items was made. There was further inquiry about the status of the apartment park proposal, but there was no new update to report.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for May 14, 2025

Adjourn

01:28:45

The Council will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend the Council meetings. Contact the staff person listed below at least 72 hours before the meeting. Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the County to a majority of members of the Council less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at El Sobrante Library (4191 Appian Way, El Sobrante, CA 94803) during normal business hours. Staff reports related to items on the agenda are also accessible online at www.contracosta.ca.gov. If the Zoom connection malfunctions for any reason, the meeting may be paused while a fix is attempted. If the connection is not reestablished, the Council will continue the meeting in person without remote access. Public comment may be submitted via electronic mail on agenda items at least one full work day prior to the published meeting time.

For Additional Information Contact: Ronnie Mills, ronnie.mills@bos.cccounty.us, 510-942-2222