



Meeting Minutes

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY East Richmond Heights Municipal Advisory Council

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

6:30 PM Open Door United Methodist Church, 6226
Arlington Blvd, Richmond, CA 94805 |
<https://cccounty-us.zoom.us/j/81874478413>

Jon Sargent (Chair), Victoria Lynn Curtis (Vice-Chair), Jinwei Zhang, Joann Pavlinec, Pam DeWitt, Bara Sapir, Royer Ramirez- Ruiz

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

00:00:21

Present

Victoria Curtis, Pamela DeWitt, Joann Pavlinec, Royer Ramirez Ruiz, Bara Sapir, Jon Sargent, and Jinwei Zhang

2. Treasurer's Report

00:00:45

The treasurer's report reflected a current balance of \$1,183, pending additional updates from the County Administrator's Office.

3. Approval of Minutes

[25-3375](#)

Attachments:

[7.16.25_erhMACMeetingMinutes](#)

00:01:12

The minutes from the July 16, 2025 meeting were presented and approved with one correction-updating a grant amount to \$950,000. The council approved the amended minutes unanimously.

This Discussion Item was approved as amended.

Motion: Pavlinec

Second: Sapir

4. Presentations

P.1. Presentation by Contra Costa County Supervisor's Office

00:02:21

Following the approval of the minutes, it was noted that there were no additional updates from Supervisor Gioia's office for the month. Council members requested a summary of recent county-related meetings, which was deferred until after the primary agenda items.

P.2. Presentation from East Bay Regional Parks District, Wildcat Flow Trail

00:04:29

Representatives from the East Bay Regional Park District provided an overview of a proposed mountain biking flow trail in Wildcat Canyon. The 1.44-mile trail is designed for downhill use and includes features such as rollers and banked turns. The project is currently in the scoping phase of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process, with public meetings planned. Key goals of the project include addressing illegal trail building and creating sustainable recreation opportunities for youth mountain biking groups. Estimated costs range from \$507,000 to \$1,000,000, with donor funding contingent on final approval.

Representatives noted that 25% of unpaved trails within the park system are currently bike-eligible.

Residents raised concerns regarding noise, dust, trail safety, and long-term maintenance. Others questioned the potential impact on hikers and equestrians, wildlife, and fire response times. Requests were made for clearer visitor usage estimates, injury data, and details on proposed parking and facilities. There was also discussion of balancing recreational use with habitat protection, and multiple residents requested that future trail projects include robust community engagement.

The Park District affirmed that the EIR would address key issues including biodiversity, erosion, and fire safety. Residents highlighted the need for native plant re-vegetation, trail etiquette education, and seasonal closures to mitigate environmental impact. Several speakers expressed support for the project, citing its benefits to youth and mental health, while others emphasized the need for clear communication with underrepresented communities such as Hasford Heights.

P.3. Presentation by Sheriff's Office Bay Station Commander, Lt. Brian Fitzgerald

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

02:13:19

Updates were provided on a fire prevention grant, which was reduced from \$1 million to \$950,000, narrowing the project scope from 73 to 57 acres. Community members emphasized the importance of Firewise initiatives, especially in urban-wildland interface zones. A related grant project focused on native wildflower planting was shared, with residents encouraged to get involved in re-vegetation and fire resiliency efforts.

P.5. Presentation by Richmond Police Department, Sgt. Terry Thomas

P.6. Presentation by California Highway Patrol (tentative)

02:54:05

A representative from local law enforcement reported on the deployment of a radar trailer for speed enforcement near Terra Hills and Mira Vista, with plans to expand to other unincorporated areas such as Arlington. Council members noted recent traffic incidents and concerns over limited police visibility in

East Richmond Heights. In response, law enforcement agreed to review patrol frequency and incident response times.

Residents voiced concerns about repeated incidents of copper theft and reported slow response times from both law enforcement and AT&T during outages. Personal stories were shared regarding vehicle break-ins and vandalism. Calls were made for increased patrols and infrastructure investment to address these persistent issues.

P.7. Presentation from Red Cross Disaster Co-Chair, Suzanne Garrett

03:01:37

A volunteer from the American Red Cross provided an overview of their services, including preparedness, disaster response, and recovery programs. The presentation also covered biomedical services such as blood drives, international partnerships, and support for armed service members. The Red Cross encouraged local volunteer participation and shared information about upcoming trainings and events.

P.8 Scheduled Fees Presentation, Contra Costa County Environmental Health

5. Discussion Items

6. Subcommittee Reports

SR.1 Land Use Committee: Joann Pavlinec, Jinwei Zhang

03:24:53

Subcommittee members reported on upcoming meetings, with the next scheduled for August 26.

7. Regional Historical Presentation

8. Agenda Items / Speakers for Upcoming ERHMAC Meetings

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

03:25:49

Community members raised concerns regarding Contra Costa County's coordination with ICE and the need for proactive policy to prevent cooperation with federal immigration enforcement. Speakers advocated for ongoing agenda items related to immigrant rights, especially for neighborhoods such as Hasford Heights, and emphasized the need for transparency and community engagement.

During public comment, residents expressed gratitude for recent community festivals and introduced new leadership from West County Wastewater.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for September 17, 2025

Adjourn

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