



Meeting Minutes

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY East Richmond Heights Municipal Advisory Council

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

6:30 PM Open Door United Methodist Church, 6226

Arlington Blvd |

[https://cccounty-us.zoom.us/j/89528918999?](https://cccounty-us.zoom.us/j/89528918999?pwd=4uftQvRgGrauBDkPTc6DbK4VqlQiAB.1)

[pwd=4uftQvRgGrauBDkPTc6DbK4VqlQiAB.1](https://cccounty-us.zoom.us/j/89528918999?pwd=4uftQvRgGrauBDkPTc6DbK4VqlQiAB.1)

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

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

00:01:14

Present	Victoria Curtis, Pamela DeWitt, Joann Pavlinec, Bara Sapir, and Jon Sargent
Absent	Jinwei Zhang

2. Treasurer's Report

00:01:42

The Treasurer's Report was presented, reflecting a balance of \$2,137.21.

3. Approval of Minutes

00:02:10

The Council reviewed the minutes from the January 21, 2026 meeting. Amendments were made to include the name of Fire Chief Bachman and to clarify that two projects were reviewed by the Land Use Committee. The amended minutes were approved by the Council.

This was approved as amended.

Motion: Pavlinec

Second: Curtis

Present Victoria Curtis, Pamela DeWitt, Joann Pavlinec, Bara Sapir, Jon Sargent, and Jinwei Zhang

[26-660](tel:26-660)

Attachments: [erhMAC 1.21.26Minutes](#)

Motion: Pavlinec

Second: Curtis
Aye: Curtis, DeWitt, Pavlinec, Sapir, and Sargent
Absent: Zhang
Result: Passed

4. Presentations

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

00:04:00

Supervisor John Gioia provided an update on several county initiatives affecting District 1. A \$1 million Community Impact Fund has been established for each supervisorial district to support community-based projects addressing health and economic disparities. The program allows grants of up to \$50,000 for nonprofit organizations or projects operating with a nonprofit fiscal sponsor. Applications for the program recently closed and are currently under review.

Supervisor Gioia also discussed a \$36 million funding program created from refinery-related fines and penalties associated with Chevron operations. These funds are intended to support public health improvements and economic transition efforts in communities most impacted by refinery emissions, including areas of West Contra Costa County.

The Board of Supervisors has also placed a proposed five-year, 5/8-cent sales tax measure on the June ballot. The measure is intended to offset potential federal reductions to Medicaid and other safety-net programs that could impact tens of thousands of Contra Costa County residents. Supervisor Gioia noted that reductions in healthcare coverage could place additional pressure on hospitals and emergency services if preventative and routine care become less accessible.

P.2. Presentation by Sheriff's Office Bay Station Commander, Lt. Brian Fitzgerald

P.3. Presentation by Richmond Police Department, Sgt. Terry Thomas

P.4. Presentation by California Highway Patrol, Officer Rivera (tentative)

P.5. Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Update, Michelle Rinehart

00:40:31

Updates were provided regarding Fire District operations and regional wildfire preparedness. The retirement of Fire Chief Lewis Broschard was announced, with the District beginning the process of identifying interim leadership. The District also reported progress on launching a new website and continuing community outreach efforts related to wildfire preparedness.

Michelle Rinehart discussed the increasing number of fires involving electric vehicles and lithium-ion batteries. To improve response capability, the District recently approved the purchase of two Cold Cut Cobra suppression systems, representing a \$200,000 investment funded through existing district resources. These specialized tools allow firefighters to penetrate sealed battery compartments and more effectively control high-energy battery fires that cannot be managed with conventional water streams.

Additional discussion highlighted the importance of defensible space and home hardening as critical

wildfire prevention strategies. The District has begun distributing informational door hangers to residents to provide guidance on vegetation management and wildfire risk reduction. The effort is intended to be educational and supportive rather than enforcement-based.

5. Discussion Items

6. Subcommittee Reports

00:50:42

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

7. Agenda Items / Speakers for Upcoming ERHMAC Meetings

00:50:55

Council members discussed a presentation from esMAC member Dr. Melinda McLain regarding "The Good Table Cafe."

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

00:52:09

Public comment included recognition of the high performance of Contra Costa County Animal Services, which reported a 98 percent live release rate in December due in part to strong partnerships with rescue organizations and volunteers.

Community members also announced upcoming events and initiatives, including a fundraiser and service organized by the Greater Richmond Interfaith Project scheduled for March 15. The event will feature reflections from volunteers who supported relief efforts during the Eaton Fire and aims to strengthen community solidarity and engagement.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for March 18, 2026

Adjourn

01:47:41

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