



Meeting Minutes

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY El Sobrante Municipal Advisory Council

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

7:00 PM El Sobrante Library (4191 Appian Way, 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

00:08:45

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

2. Treasurer's Report

00:09:11

the treasurer's report reflected a balance of \$3,000

3. Approval of Minutes

00:09:27

This was approved.

Motion: Cleveland

Second: McLain

Aye: Cleveland, Edlinger, Hart, Lang, Loyd, McLain, Norris, and Owens

Absent: Hermann

Result: Passed

[25-4703](#)

Attachments: [10.8.25 esMAC Minutes](#)

4. Presentations

P.1. County Update, Supervisor John Gioia

00:09:54

Ronnie Mills office provided updates on current county matters, including the permit revocation for the Smoke Depot at 3770 San Pablo Avenue due to violations involving tobacco sales to minors and unauthorized cannabis sales. The business retains the right to appeal the decision. The office also reported progress on ensuring full state-mandated food benefits for eligible residents following a recent court ruling. District 1 residents were encouraged to apply for openings on county boards and commissions. In response to questions about rabies control services, the office clarified that responsibilities previously held by SOS now fall under county operations.

An update was provided on the development of a revised county noise ordinance, currently in draft form and expected to be brought to the Board of Supervisors. Council members discussed how the community could support this effort and the importance of resident feedback. Additional clarification was provided on the Smoke Depot permit revocation process, including the business' ability to appeal.

P.2. Sheriff's Office Bay Station Update, Lt. Fitzgerald

P.3. Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Update, Michelle Rinehart

00:18:23

Contra Costa Fire Chief Johnson presented updates on staffing levels, station operations, and call activity. The district reported a decline in residential structure fires, with only two incidents recorded in 2025 and three in 2024. Fire personnel described responses to medical calls, vehicle accidents, and public service needs. Updates were provided on fire code adoptions, the annual open house event, and ongoing work to map wildfire mitigation projects throughout the region.

P.4. California Highway Patrol (tentative)

P.5 Presentation from East Bay Regional Parks District, Wildcat Flow Trail

00:43:27

Representatives from the East Bay Regional Park District provided an overview of the proposed Wildcat Canyon Trail project. The goal of the project is to reduce environmental impacts, improve safety, and accommodate downhill mountain biking while maintaining access for hikers on existing trails, such as the Mezu Trail. The project will undergo a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR), allowing for robust public review and input. Questions addressed trail directionality, e-bike use, trail maintenance responsibilities, and volunteer opportunities. Parking concerns and school-area traffic impacts were also raised and will be incorporated into the EIR analysis.

Residents and council members offered extensive input on the proposed trail. Concerns included the need for pre-project data collection on existing trail use, safety issues for hikers, potential impacts on wildlife and biodiversity, and the perception that the project may disproportionately benefit a small special-interest group. Park staff described current and planned data-gathering methods, including AI tracking, Strava data, and trail counters, and reaffirmed the importance of community input in shaping the scope of the studies. Questions were raised about long-term maintenance costs, fairness of the process, and whether events or races might be held on the trail; staff clarified that no racing events are planned at this time.

Supporters of the project-including youth mountain bikers and community members-highlighted the

need for safe, legal bike routes and the positive benefits for local youth. Opponents expressed concerns about solitude, potential landslides, increased traffic, and environmental impacts.

Further comments reflected a wide range of viewpoints, including concerns regarding wildlife impacts, increased park use, parking limitations, and wildfire risk. Others spoke about the value of youth recreation opportunities and the importance of legal, managed trails as an alternative to illegal trail construction.

The council discussed how best to organize community input, suggesting a structured approach that groups feedback into pros and cons. Questions were raised about the timeline of the project and opportunities for early public engagement. Park District staff noted that the next step will be the release of the Notice of Preparation for the EIR, which will begin the formal public comment period.

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 Hearing

DI.1 - (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).

00:30:18

Community members raised several issues, including speeding and heavy truck traffic along Pebble Drive, with suggestions for speed bumps and weight limits. Residents were encouraged to work with Supervisor Gioia's office for next steps. Another resident reported difficulty locating the owner of a neighboring property where a deceased deer remained unaddressed; council members recommended contacting the county assessor's office for ownership information.

7. Information Items

02:12:02

Council members discussed an coming osteoporosis discussion being held at the Good Table as well as a December Market event held by Planting Justice.

8. Subcommittee Reports – Next Clean Up, November 15, 2025

02:18:46

Council members discussed the coming third Saturday Community Clean Up and the November 29 Hometown Holiday Fair event

9. Agenda Items / Speakers for Upcoming ESMAC Meetings

02:23:54

The meeting concluded with an emphasis on transparency, ongoing community involvement, and the importance of gathering data before final decisions are made.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for December 10

Adjourn

02:24:15

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