



**Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council  
Agenda  
Regular Meeting**

**June 08, 2023 05:30 PM**

**Monte Rio Elementary School Library, 20700 Foothill Dr, Monte Rio, CA 95462 and via Zoom:  
<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/97078696015?pwd=anRsRkczQ1NrbFkyaXNwSGVmakZFUT09>  
<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/lrrmac>**

Chair - Rio Nido Representative Pip Marquez de la Plata • Vice Chair - Forestville Representative Lisa Nahmanson • Guerneville Representative Joe Rogoff • Guerneville Representative Nic Pereira • Pocket Canyon & Greater So Guerneville Representative Betsy Van Dyke • Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative Cynthia Strecker • Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative Mike Nicholls • Hacienda Representative Vicki Clewes • Forestville Representative Vesta Copestakes

**REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS**

The Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council will make reasonable accommodations for persons having special needs due to disabilities. Please contact the Fifth District Field Representative at 707-565-2866 during regular business hours at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to ensure necessary accommodations are made.

**1. Call to Order**

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Roll Call

**2. Approval of Agenda, Chair Pip Marquez de la Plata**

- Discussion    Possible Action

**3. Statement of Conflict of Interest**

- Discussion

This is the time for the Chair, Vice Chair and Council Members to indicate any statements of conflict of interest for any item listed on this agenda.

**4. Consent Agenda**

- Discussion    Possible Action

These items are expected to be routine and non-controversial. The LRRMAC will act upon them at one time without discussion. Any Representatives, staff member or interested party may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.

- A. May 11, 2023 Minutes

**5. Council Member Comment: on Matters not listed on the agenda**

- Discussion

Comments are restricted to matters within the Board's jurisdiction. Please be brief and limit spoken comments to one minute.

**6. Public Comments**

- Discussion

On Matters not listed on the agenda: Comments are restricted to matters within the Board's jurisdiction. Please be brief and limit spoken comments to two minutes.

## **7. Supervisor Lynda Hopkins**

### **Discussion**

## **8. How to report road issues, traffic issues, abandoned vehicles, and more**

### **Discussion**

Mark Ayala from Sonoma County Information Systems Department will give an overview on how to utilize the SoCo Connect App and website for reporting non-emergency service requests such as Guardrail damage, Hazardous trees, Litter/roadside debris, Plugged culverts, Pothole identification, Down road signs, Sign visibility problems, Landslides, Streetlight problems, Traffic signal concerns, Vegetation overgrowth, Abandoned vehicles, and County code compliance issues.

The SoCo Connect app is available in the Apple and Google Play stores. Service and information requests can also be made through the county's website at <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/submit-a-service-request>.

## **9. Committee and Staff Reports**

### **Discussion**

- A. Communications Ad Hoc, Report from Chair Joe Rogoff
- B. Community Clean Up Ad Hoc, Report from Chair Lisa Nahmanson
- C. Pocket Canyon area renaming ad hoc, Report from Chair Betsy Van Dyke
- D. Staff report from Elise Weiland, including enhanced summer parking enforcement.

## **10. Adjournment**



**Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council  
Minutes**

**Regular Meeting**

**May 11, 2023 05:30 PM**

**Cazadero Fire House, 5985 Cazadero Hwy. Cazadero, CA 95421 \* meeting will be streamed via**

**ZOOM:**

**<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/92722716100?pwd=UDJWSWpTY3o2QTl0cWJuNDRHME91UT09>**

**<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/lrrmac>**

Chair - Rio Nido Representative Pip Marquez de la Plata • Vice Chair - Forestville Representative Lisa Nahmanson • Guerneville Representative Joe Rogoff • Guerneville Representative Nic Pereira • Pocket Canyon & Greater So Guerneville Representative Betsy Van Dyke • Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative Cynthia Strecker • Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative Mike Nicholls • Hacienda Representative Vicki Clewes • Forestville Representative Vesta Copestakes • Patty Thayer • Alice Teeter

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 pm by Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative Mike Nicholls.

**A. Pledge of Allegiance**

Lead by Forestville Representative Vesta Copestakes

**B. Roll Call**

Present: Vice Chair - Forestville Representative Lisa Nahmanson, Guerneville Representative Joe Rogoff, Guerneville Representative Nic Pereira, Pocket Canyon & Greater So Guerneville Representative Betsy Van Dyke, Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative Cynthia Strecker, Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative Mike Nicholls, Forestville Representative Vesta Copestakes, Patty Thayer, Alice Teeter

Absent: Chair - Rio Nido Representative Pip Marquez de la Plata, Hacienda Representative Vicki Clewes

Staff Present: Supervisor Lynda Hopkins, Debbie Ramirez, Elise Weiland, Leo Chyi (remote) and Amy Cohen (remote)

**2. Approval of Agenda, Chair Pip Marquez de la Plata**

Prior to this vote, Lisa Nahmanson made a statement regarding her need to attend remotely per AB 2449.

Forestville Representative Vesta Copestakes motioned to approve. A second was made by Pocket Canyon & Greater So Guerneville Representative Betsy Van Dyke. The roll call vote:

Aye Vice Chair - Forestville Representative Lisa Nahmanson Aye Guerneville Representative Joe Rogoff Aye Guerneville Representative Nic Pereira Aye Pocket Canyon & Greater So Guerneville Representative Betsy Van Dyke Aye Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative Mike Nicholls Aye Forestville Representative Vesta Copestakes Aye Patty Thayer Aye Alice Teeter Absent Chair - Rio Nido Representative Pip Marquez de la Plata Absent Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative Cynthia Strecker Absent Hacienda Representative Vicki Clewes

**3. Statement of Conflict of Interest**

none

**4. Consent Agenda**

A. April 13, 2023 Minutes Forestville Representative Vesta Copestakes motioned to approve. A second was made by Alice Teeter. The roll call vote:

Aye Vice Chair - Forestville Representative Lisa Nahmanson Aye Guerneville Representative Joe Rogoff Aye Guerneville Representative Nic Pereira Aye Pocket

**Canyon & Greater So Guerneville Representative Betsy Van Dyke** Aye **Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative Mike Nicholls** Aye **Forestville Representative Vesta Copestakes** Aye **Patty Thayer** Aye **Alice Teeter** Absent **Chair - Rio Nido Representative Pip Marquez de la Plata** Absent **Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative Cynthia Strecker** Absent **Hacienda Representative Vicki Clewes**

**5. Council Member Comment: on Matters not listed on the agenda**

Vesta Copestakes commented on the fact that public infrastructure will be cleaning up vegetation on the side of River Road. She also noted an event the cleanup committee is hosting in Forestville, as well as the upcoming Forestville Farmers market, at which the MAC will be tabling.

Nic Pereira gave an update on the Vets Hall Ad Hoc committee, and encouraged members of the public to reach out to him if they are interested in volunteering.

Alice Teeter noted that she would like a schedule from the county to know when high-speed mowing will be occurring.

Mike Nicholls made a comment about how supportive and helpful public infrastructure has been during the storms.

Lisa Nahmanson provided an update on her attendance at the digital Equity and BEAD (Broadband Equity Access and Deployment) Event representing the MAC.

**6. Public Comments**

Andrea Buffa asked the MAC to urge County officials to provide updates on Moscow Road Construction.

**7. Consideration of letter in support of AB 817 (PACHECO): LOCAL GOVERNMENT: OPEN MEETINGS**

Joe Rogoff asked for a brief explanation of what this letter is for the public. Field Representative Debbie Ramirez explained that the letter is expressing support for legislation that would allow bodies composed exclusively of appointed members to meet virtually as well as in-person.

Patricia Thayer asked for a clarification as to why the MAC needed to support these regulations when Lisa Nahmanson was already able to participate in the meeting virtually. Field Representative Ramirez clarified that, under current guidelines, virtual participation is very limited, and this legislation would expand it.

Vesta Copestakes noted her support for this letter, as it makes being on the MAC more accessible.

Guerneville Representative Nic Pereira motioned to approve. A second was made by Alice Teeter. The roll call vote:

Aye **Vice Chair - Forestville Representative Lisa Nahmanson** Aye **Guerneville Representative Joe Rogoff** Aye **Pocket Canyon & Greater So Guerneville Representative Betsy Van Dyke** Aye **Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative Mike Nicholls** Aye **Forestville Representative Vesta Copestakes** Aye **Patty Thayer** Aye **Alice Teeter** Absent **Chair - Rio Nido Representative Pip Marquez de la Plata** Absent **Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative Cynthia Strecker** Absent **Hacienda Representative Vicki Clewes**

**8. Supervisor Lynda Hopkins**

Supervisor Hopkins gave infrastructure updates including that bids for Moscow Road construction are open and close June 5th, there is now a consultant on board for the East Boston Creek Bridge, and they are hosting meetings to try and look at the Guerneville Fire Station and Vet's Hall infrastructure problems. They are looking into the possibility of replacing these buildings with a larger structure which can house more services. Additionally, Supervisor Hopkins noted that a fire safety working group has potential infrastructure funds for new fire stations, and encouraged the public to reach out to their fire agencies and ensure they are involved in the process. A measure to approve the use of these funds will be on the March ballot.

Betsy Van Dyke asked Supervisor Hopkins if the plan was to tear down the Vet's Hall Entirely. Supervisor Hopkins responded yes, because of the very poor condition. The new building will ideally continue to be multi-use, and will house the fire station and Sheriff in addition to other community services.

Nic Pereira asked if a temporary solution for deputies was in place. Supervisor Hopkins responded that they had looked at potential alternative solutions if needed, but for now it seems like the current space

can be repaired enough.

Lisa Nahmanson asked for updates on crosswalks and sidewalks. Supervisor Hopkins said she would circle back to inquire about this, but has no updates at the moment.

Supervisor Hopkins added an update on the Parking Ride Lot in Downtown Guerneville. They have been looking into adding EV charging and a dog park to improve the environment of the parking lot and help to create more recreational opportunities in Guerneville, and suggested the creation of a MAC Ad Hoc committee on recreation in Guerneville.

Patricia Thayer asked for clarification on the Moscow Road construction update, asking if the start/completion times were uniform for all bidders, and if not, is this taken into consideration. She also looked to confirm that the construction is still on track to be repaired at the end of this year. Supervisor Hopkins replied that the bids will each give a time/cost estimate, and this will be considered in the selection process. She also noted that the construction is still on track to be finished by the end of this year.

Vesta Copestakes asked about the possibility of creating a trail to the beach from a parking lot near Steelhead beach to make crossing safe, as well as updates on the Georgia Highway shelter and the Monte Rio Bridges. Supervisor Hopkins replied that this would be a complicated process, so it would be simpler for the property owners to do it informally and then reach out to parks. In terms of the shelter, the County needs to request an extension from the state because of project complexity, and likely won't be completed until mid-late next year. The little Monte Rio Bridge is closed and they are looking into traffic signals for one-way access. The main Monte Rio Bridge is having challenges as they are running into roadblocks with Caltrans.

Mike Nicholls asked about increased EV charging, and deferred the decision on the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee focused on recreational opportunities in Guerneville to Chair Pip Marquez de la Plata at the next meeting.

## **9. Presentation from the Independent Office of Law Enforcement Oversight**

IOLERO and CAC representatives shared a slide presentation about what they do and answered questions and took comments from MAC representatives, including on the relationship between IOLERO/CAC and the Sheriff Department, backlog, community engagement efforts and representative appointments, and the largest topic of complaint they receive.

## **10. Fire Season Readiness: Defensible Space Resources**

Fire Marshall Cyndi Foreman gave an update on defensible spaces and what residents can do to increase their residency's fire resiliency. She highlighted the importance of clearing defensible spaces, the first 100 ft from a house, of all flammable items, but noted that it was especially crucial to clear the first 5 ft. She also noted that flammable fences that connected to houses and attics and crawl spaces with poor ventilation, are particularly hazardous. She highlighted using burn permits at the correct time of year and the chipper program available in many cities as cost-effective mitigation and home hardening strategies. She noted that the CWPP was revamped and includes funding for fire mitigation projects for those that apply under a program called SoCo Adapt. Additionally, Cyndi Foreman noted that agencies can inspect properties and ask homeowners to follow the defensible space guidelines, and in certain cases, can help provide funding for these projects.

Betsy Van Dyke asked if they should report neighbor problems with defensible space compliance to local jurisdictions, and Foreman responded that they should, and when they inspect one house, they tend to inspect the entire neighborhood.

Joe Rogoff asked if Fire Marshall Cyndi Foreman would be interested in being interviewed on the River Talk Radio Show, to which she agreed.

Nic Pereira asked why the CHP Plan's footprint (the geographic area the plan applies to) was delineated in the way it is. Cyndi Foreman answered that the plan was made based on need and risk levels.

Lisa Nahmanson asked where the information to book a chipper could be accessed. Foreman responded that it was on the SaferWestCounty website, and that the County does bookings for Forestville.

Patricia Thayer asked if homeowners can be reimbursed for home hardening, to which Foreman replied yes, through SoCo Adapt.

Vesta Copestakes raised concerns over neighbors code compliance and lack of funds to carry out the necessary hazard mitigation strategies. Cyndi Foreman replied that they do have some funds available to help fund projects for properties in dire need when there are economic concerns.

Mike Nicholls asked if chips are usually left onsite after chipping occurs. Foreman responded yes, but that they can be spread out in a thin layer easily and so do not pose an added fire threat.

## 11. **Committee and Staff Reports**

### A. Communications Ad Hoc, Report from Chair Joe Rogoff

Joe Rogoff gave an update on the Communications committee. MAC Members have been making appearances at public events, which has been a good way to educate and engage the public. He encouraged MAC members to sign up to attend/table at events.

### B. Community Clean Up Ad Hoc, Report from Chair Lisa Nahmanson

Lisa Nahmanson gave an update on the Community Cleanup committee, which is currently focusing on doing more micro-level cleanups.

### C. Pocket Canyon area renaming ad hoc, Report from Chair Betsy Van Dyke

Betsy Van Dyke gave an update on the Pocket Canyon Renaming Ad Hoc. They have been struggling to recruit members, but have made some progress, and will be having an Ad Hoc meeting soon.

### D. Staff report from Elise Weiland

Elise Weiland gave the staff report. She suggested looking into the creation of an Ad Hoc committee to look at the process for electing members this fall and highlighted open positions on Boards and Committees including the Planning Commission, the CDC, and IOLERO. She also noted that the next governance meeting will be June 3rd from 10-12, where they will be presenting possible governance tools that can be applied to the local concerns that were raised in the prior governance meeting. Interpreters will be available at this meeting. Then, Elise Weiland answered questions and comments from the MAC.

Mike Nicholls asked if a QR code could be put on outreach material, as it makes it much more accessible for people.

Betsy Van Dyke asked if MAC members who presented at the first governance meeting helped make the agenda, to which Elise responded that they did not, as the agenda is made by consulting firms the county hires.

Joe Rogoff asked how the district got such good attendance at the event. Elise responded that they provided information about the event to stakeholders and leaders in the area and asked them to distribute it to their networks.

Nic Pereira raised concerns over the breakout group structure. Elise responded that they do breakout groups to avoid having the conversation dominated by a few individuals, and plan to do a combination of small and large group discussions, but would be open to hearing suggestions on other formats.

Lisa Nahmanson asked what the CDC stood for, and Elise explained it was the Community Development Commission, which works on affordable housing and homelessness.

Patty Thayer noted that, at the first meeting, it was indicated that data would be provided on the revenue the area produces compared to the resources it receives, and asked if this was still the plan. Elise Weiland responded that a general overview would be provided.

Vesta Copestakes expressed appreciation for the breakout group structure and the summaries from each breakout group that were included at the last governance meeting. She asked what the updates were on the Respect Russian River Campaign. Elise responded that the BOS is considering signing the Memorandum Of Understanding for the confluence, multiple stores will be selling merchandise soon, and there is an updated website being launched with volunteer opportunities included.

## 12. **Adjournment**

Alice Teeter left the meeting at 7 pm. Upon motion from Vesta and second from Betsy, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Nicholls at 8:12 PM