



North Sonoma Valley Municipal Advisory Council 2022 Annual Report

Prepared by Kate Eagles, Chair, and Arthur Dawson, Vice-Chair
February 16, 2023

Summary

The North Sonoma Valley Municipal Advisory Council (NSV MAC) focus for 2022 centered around the community's interest in the planning and environmental impact report (EIR) process for the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC). The NSV MAC hosted 10 regular meetings and two special meetings (single topic) and participated in two joint meetings with the Sonoma Valley Citizens Advisory Committee and the Springs Municipal Advisory Council. All meetings were conducted virtually. Community participation ranged from approximately 10 attendees to well over 100, with the SDC development-focused meetings drawing the largest attendance and the highest number of public comments.

The NSV MAC had eight of its nine seats filled throughout most of 2022. In October of 2022, Councilmember Jed Cooper resigned with Patricia Galindo welcomed as the newest MAC member in January 2023, leaving one seat still open. Chair Arthur Dawson reached his two-year term limit, and moved to the Vice Chair position in September, with Kate Eagles taking on the Chair role.

Three of the NSV MAC ad hoc committees from 2022— Outreach, Emergency Preparedness, and Transportation & Safety— were formally dissolved in May of 2022. The Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) ad hoc, formed in the summer of 2021, was retained to continue its work. Also in May, two new ad hoc committees were formed: Signage, Public Art & Beautification and Transportation. More detail about the work of the MAC's ad hocs is provided on page 3.

The NSV MAC hosted presentations by county agencies and local organizations throughout the year. A full meeting list is provided below, highlighting the primary presenter(s), activity and/or report from each meeting.

2022 Meeting List

December 21, 2022: (regular meeting cancelled – see December 12)



December 12, 2022 - **Special Meeting**: **NSV MAC Chair and Vice Chair** presented a letter for review and approval to send as comment on the final Sonoma Development Center (SDC) Specific Plan and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to Board of Supervisors for their 12/16/2022 meeting

November 30, 2022 - **Joint Meeting**: Joint meeting of the Sonoma Valley Citizens Advisory Committee, the Springs Municipal Advisory Council, the North Sonoma Valley Municipal Advisory Council. Sixth Cycle Housing Element of the Sonoma County General Plan presentation by **Permit Sonoma staff**.

November 16, 2022: Cancelled. See November 30 joint special meeting.

October 19, 2022: **Kristen Madsen**, Director, Creative Sonoma, with presentation and opportunity for feedback on emerging plans for a Creative Sonoma public art plan for Sonoma County.

September 21, 2022: **Bean Anderson**, Glen Ellen Historical Society re: SDC vision; **Bryan Albee**, SC Transit re: bike racks and benches; **NSV MAC SDC Ad Hoc** presented draft letter to Permit Sonoma for review and approval re: Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) Specific Plan and the SDC Specific Plan Draft Environmental Report. Election of NSV MAC Chair and Vice Chair.

August 17, 2022: **Oscar Chavez**, Human Services Department. Presentation of findings on Portrait of Sonoma 2021 and American Rescue Act (ARPA) funding awards.

August 24, 2022 - **Joint Meeting**: Joint meeting of the Sonoma Valley Citizens Advisory Committee, the Springs Municipal Advisory Council, the North Sonoma Valley Municipal Advisory Council. Draft EIR, EIR-Appendices and Draft Specific Plan presentation by **Permit Sonoma staff**.

July 20, 2022: **Kim Batchelder**, Agricultural Preservation and Open Space, provided presentation on Vegetation Management and Grant Program.

June 15, 2022: Discussion of possible letter to state senators McGuire and Dodd; receive update re: SDC, community improvement projects from **Glen Ellen Forum** and **NSV MAC Community Improvement Ad Hoc Committee**.

May 18, 2022: Final report out from **Outreach, Preparedness and Traffic & Safety Ad Hoc committees**; discussion of potential future Ad Hocs.

April 2022: **Sam Wallis**, Alert and Warning Program Manager, Department of Emergency Management, announced the upcoming Alert and Warning Exercise. **Arthur Dawson**, NSV MAC Chair, presented a Glen Ellen boundary acknowledgment and resolution for review and MAC approval, as well as a local Glen Ellen bike path proposal for review.



March 16, 2022: **Caitlin Cornwall** presented on behalf of the Sonoma Valley Collaborative. **The NSV MAC SDC Ad Hoc** presented a draft letter of comment to Permit Sonoma re: the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft EIR for the Sonoma Developmental Center Specific Plan.

February 16, 2022: Review letter of support for Sonoma Valley Fire Department vegetation management grant applications; review NSV MAC Annual Report.

January 19, 2022: **John McCaull**, Sonoma Last Trust, presented an overview of land trusts and other trusts. **Linda Schiltgen**, Deputy County Council, presented the Ralph M. Brown Act for Municipal Advisory Councils Training.

January 5, 2022 - *Special Meeting*: The **NSV MAC SDC Ad Hoc** presented a draft letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding the proposed land use and design alternatives for the SDC Specific Plan for review and approval.

Ad Hoc Committees

As mentioned above, the Outreach, Emergency Preparedness & Transportation, and Safety ad hocs were brought to a formal close in May 2022. The SDC ad hoc was retained as still active. New ad hocs were formed in May: Signage, Public Art & Beautification and Transportation.

SDC Ad Hoc (Councilmembers Dickey, Nardo-Morgan, Eagles)

The SDC ad hoc was asked to draft several letters over the course of 2022 to provide a synthesis of community input pertaining to the SDC draft Specific Plan and Environmental Impact Reports. The SDC ad hoc drafted three letters that were edited and approved by the NSV MAC during public meetings. These letters focused on issues of importance to the community, primarily pertaining to the scale of development, historic significance and legacy, and appropriate land use planning, as well as concerns over inadequacies in the EIR with respect to impacts and mitigation measures. Letters were approved and sent by the NSV MAC as follows:

- **January 6, 2022.** Letter to Sonoma County Board of Supervisors requesting a community-driven process for a preferred Plan alternative prior to initiation of the Environmental Impact Report.
- **March 17, 2022.** Letter of to Permit Sonoma reflecting community comments pertaining to the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft EIR for the Sonoma Developmental Center Specific Plan.
- **September 21, 2022.** Letter to Permit Sonoma submitting comments pertaining to the Public Review Draft of the SDC Specific Plan and the SDC Specific Plan Draft Environmental Report.

In addition, a letter requesting that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors review the content of the three letters referenced above was drafted by the NSV MAC Chair and Vice



Chair. This letter was approved at a special NSV MAC meeting in December and sent to the Board on December 13, 2022.

Transportation (Councilmembers Oldroyd, Dawson)

At the October 19 meeting, the Transportation Ad Hoc presented road recommendations in NSV MAC area, as part of Roads Working Group, for 2024/2025 Pavement Preservation Program (PPP) Priority Roads Lists. After discussion and the incorporation of a few changes, the NSV MAC approved road recommendations for submission to the County.

Signage, Public Art & Beautification (Councilmembers Handron, Newhouser)

This ad hoc is in discussions with the Glen Ellen Forum, which has previously studied potential Glen Ellen signage options, to determine a collaborative path forward.

Outreach

Outreach will require concerted focus in 2023, especially as the MAC will be moving back to in-person versus virtual meetings in March. There is no formal ad hoc committee currently in place to handle outreach; it was agreed by the MAC in 2022 that the Chair and Vice Chair would take on the ongoing outreach role. To date, the NSV MAC has created a Facebook page, has reached out to a variety of Sonoma Valley organizations (as listed in the 2021 Annual Report), and participated in local community events, including the annual Glen Ellen Fair.

Fire Preparedness Follow-up

While the NSV MAC has no fire preparedness ad hoc at this time, the community wildfire protection planning process continues, funded through Fire Safe Sonoma. There will be a follow up hybrid meeting sometime mid-March to present the plan in which the NSV MAC will participate, working with the Glen Ellen Forum and the Sonoma Valley Fire Protection.

###