



May 11, 2022

To: Susan Gorin, Supervisor First District
County of Sonoma
575 Administration Drive, Room 100 A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Via email:

Re: Springs Municipal Advisory Council Annual Report 2021-2022

The Springs Municipal Advisory Council (Springs MAC) would like to summarize our activities and accomplishments over the calendar year of 2021-2022 and cumulative updates for you and other members of the Board of Supervisors. Our summary is drawn from the complete record of activities extracted from our meeting minutes.

Monthly Meetings—the Springs MAC generally convenes the Second Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm. Prior to March 2020, meetings were in person at the Springs Community Hall. Currently meetings are virtually via Zoom with Spanish interpreting. We have adjusted our meeting schedule several times to accommodate Sonoma Valley Citizens Advisory Committee and the Sonoma City Council. We currently meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm via zoom. The Springs MAC has expressed a desire to return to in person meetings and are in the process of determining a location. Council would like to offer a hybrid model so community members have the option to join in person or virtual.

Member History—July 2021-June 2022

Jesus Yeuri Alcaraz
Maite Iturri (Chair)
Iris Lombard
Hannah Perot (Vice Chair)
Maricarmen Reyes
Avram Goldman (term ended March 2022, did not reappoint)

Ray Willett (term ended March 2022, did not reappoint)
Vacant—At large
Vacant—At large
Vacant—Alternate
Vacant—SVCAC seat: Joanne Brown (resigned after one month August 2021)

Organizational year—The Springs MAC has been operational for three years. Since 2019 was the initial year following MAC formation, it was generally felt necessary by council members, staff and the chair to request key county department heads or designates to appear before the Council to introduce themselves and provide an overview of their departments' organization, mission and key objectives for Councilmembers. In addition, the MAC is interested in community voice and creating space for that voice to be heard in a public setting to uphold the democratic principles of our local government. The MAC has received presentations from a variety of Sonoma County Departments and local nonprofits. The following presentations were received by the MAC:



January to December 2021 and January to April 2022

- Department of Emergency Services presentations regarding shelters and emergency plans for Sonoma County and in particular the Springs
- CAL Trans and Sonoma County Department of Transportation to address the ongoing road dangers in the Springs
- Logan Harvey from Recology shared recycling opportunities in the Valley
- Sonoma County Sheriff presented on evacuation safety and theft prevention
- Sonoma County Health, Sonoma Valley Health Center and Sonoma Valley Hospital presented vaccine options, Covid – 19 statistics, spread mitigation and safety measures
- Permit Sonoma informed council on vacation rental ordinances.
- Chief Aker reports quarterly on fire preparedness and Sonoma Valley Fire Department updates
- Mattison Project Manager reports quarterly on Mattison projects
- LGBTQ Connections presented on gender identity
- Herman Hernandez presented on Sonoma County Supervisorial Redistricting
- Oscar Chavez from Sonoma County Health presented on the Portrait of Sonoma
- Irving Huerta from Permit Sonoma reports on Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) plans
- Planners, Dyett and Bhatia report on plan options for SDC. This was a collaborative meeting between North Valley Municipal Advisory Council and Sonoma Valley Citizens Advisory Council
- Sonoma County Behavioral Health reports on mental health offerings
- Sonoma Homeless Action presents on housing project in the Springs
- SAFE Team presented on mental health crisis supports in Petaluma and Cotati Rohnert Park
- NAMI shares mental health resources
- Sonoma Valley Library reports on services for English and Spanish speakers

Letters of Support Resolution

Request for a S.A.F.E. Team Community Response for Sonoma Valley
Urgent Request for Improvements to Traffic Safety letter to CAL Trans
Sonoma Development Center letter supporting affordable housing and equitable opportunities
Letters of support for Sonoma Valley Fire Department
Adopted letter writing policy in April 2022

MAC Sponsored Events

NeighborFest Vaccine Clinic – September 2021
Dia de los Muertos – November 2021
Plaza Lighting – December 2021
Compost Give Away at Larsen Park – March 2022
Dia del Nino – April 2022
Town Hall Meeting - TBD

Ad Hocs—active adhocs

Arts in the Springs (expires June 2022)
Outreach (expires July 2022)
Community Voice (expires March 2023)

Art in the Springs

The team tried unsuccessfully a number of times to find art opportunities in the Springs. The team investigate decorating PGE boxes, banners to hang from the light and mural options. All of these were met with barriers

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that made progress impossible for an all-volunteer group. Recently, we met with Sonoma County Transit to place bike racks at bus stops in the Springs. We will be able to add art to the racks that represent the Springs. This is pending approval from Sonoma County and Springs MAC. Sonoma County Transit has been very supportive and collaborative of this work.

Outreach and Additional Fire Preparedness Support

Informational flyer about the MAC created w/ outreach committee

Notes taken on every meeting and posted to Facebook so those who cannot attend can be aware of MAC meeting happenings

Posted info about how to attend MAC on Facebook + Nextdoor before each meeting to increase awareness / attendance

Letter to CalTrans and petition w/ over 300 signatures calling for improved safety on Hwy 12

Compost giveaway done 2 times - 40 Cubic yards of compost, thousands of plant starts given away by Springs Grange Hall

Increased connection between Springs MAC and Springs Rotary and Grange Hall via group events

Fire Ad Hoc has led to creation of Springs Fire Safe Council, which is completing the CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan) and will have 1st community meeting on May 21st

The Emergency Preparedness/MYN

The ad hoc was very productive during 2021 with Dana Bravo as a part time facilitator. Even hindered by Covid restrictions, much was accomplished. A grant for an additional 100 hours, thanks to Chair Iturri, the Catalyst Fund and Sonoma Ecology Center. This allowed for additional community outreach, work on name recognition for MYN and learning effective outreach from experienced community leaders. Dana has used Facebook as an information sharing hub, but a website would presumably be more easily accessed by a broad range of users.

- **JUNE**- With Covid restrictions loosening the Sonoma Valley Community Health Center (SVCHC) sponsored NeighborFest, providing COVID tests and vaccines, shared community resources, and reinvigorated community cohesion. MYN was represented at all these events—NeighborFest Tuesday June 15—extremely successful event, complete with nearby fire emergency! MYN helped sponsor June 16 NeighborFest Community Listening Circles at El Verano School. A preparation event at La Luz Thursday June 24 and a June 30th NeighborFest Glen Ellen at Abbott’s Passage Winery. Additionally, zoom Meetings/Webinars: Parent University, *Charla Comunitaria*, *Lideres Campesinas*, SVCHC - Latino Advisory Committee & Emergency Preparedness pop-up. Continuing outreach accepting all invitations to present MYN and holding Block Leader meetings.
- **JULY** - Block leaders to hopefully calendar in-person meeting/s. Neighborfest July 8th at El Verano. Continued development of contact lists.
- **AUGUST** - Outreach slowed due to Delta variant, in-person opportunities reduced, still networking grass roots. Hosted a productive Block Leader zoom meeting in August. Some neighborhoods are making exact maps of participating homes. Neighborhoods doing very good networking. MYN worked at the MidPen apartments to organize the Celestina tenants.
- **SEPTEMBER** - Dana Bravo, MYN ad hoc member Reyes & Sonoma Sheriff’s Community Service Officer Sylvia Floriano made an emergency preparedness presentation for Feters Apartments to find block leaders to train and implement MYN. Continued mapping, neighborhoods also organizing spontaneously(!), google maps introduced to all groups. Neighborfest (SV Health Center), Mexican Heritage Sept 19. In-person outreach was concluded for the Breathe Sonoma event at the season finale of the Tuesday Night Farmers Market.

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- **OCTOBER-** Torrential rain saw Sonoma Creek going from empty to full within 24 hours. MYN is an all emergency approach, so messaging on flooding and to update go-bags with cold weather/winter items. Some bilingual promotional materials were completed with MYN ad hoc member Reyes for the County of Sonoma Dept of Emergency Management on these topics as well. Continue to keep on track with FEMA messaging scheduling throughout the year for all types of natural disaster prep—tsunami, earthquake, flooding, fire, wind, power outages, etc. The long-awaited emergency supplies to be housed in the Springs arrived! The Conex Shed and supplies were delivered.
- **NOVEMBER** - An additional donation of emergency supplies was delivered by Catholic Charities in conjunction with the Red Cross to be kept in the Conex container. An inventory of donated items was completed and also includes a list of additional EP and clerical supplies needed/desired. [Connex Inventory](#)
- **DECEMBER** - All is calm with a reprieve from concern over wildfires for now. Reflecting on the year, much has been accomplished. In addition to outreach work and formation of MYN groups, partnerships with the Sonoma Ecology Center, Sonoma Valley Community Health Center, Julie Atwood’s Halter Project, Sonoma Valley Fire District, Sonoma County, Catholic Charities, La Luz, and others were formed. Joined Sonoma County Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD). Working together towards strong community preparedness. Additionally, Dana spoke with Nancy Brown, SoCo Dept. of Emergency Management about hosting a LISTOS training in Spanish, to develop more leaders. This will be the more comprehensive UC Santa Barbara LISTOS training.
- **JANUARY** - The Emergency Preparedness-MYN effort is in a slow period. Refocusing priorities, working to recognize the possibility of all possible hazards.
- **FEBRUARY-** A to-do list for future work—not the least of which is finding funding (grants) for continuation of Dana Bravo as the bilingual representative working in the Springs for the very large effort to introduce emergency preparedness to the entire Springs area. Dana continues as a volunteer when possible, however this is not sustainable. Working with the developing FireSafe Council is of interest. The SoCo COAD group recently held a meeting on needs assessment. Nancy Brown suggested a meet up with the CERT Bodega Bay representative to start a bilingual CERT group. Suggestions of working with FEMA, SoCo DEM on seasonally themed messaging and outreach. MYN ad hoc member Reyes did a bilingual promo video for DEM for the winter season.
- **MARCH** - Council informed of an April 30th preparedness event a test of the SoCoAlert messaging system for the Springs and Glen Ellen. Messaging is bilingual and results of calls connected will be tabulated and studied for improvement. Ad hoc member Reyes also met with Sam Willis of Emergency County Alerts. Chair Iturri reached out and received approval from Sonoma Ecology Center to continue to be the fiscal sponsor of MYN effort, we continue to search for funding sources to continue the work being done.

In conclusion, we experienced several successes which included the shipment of the Conex and collection of emergency supplies at Altimira. We would like to thank American Red Cross, Catholic Charities and the Sonoma County Department of Emergency Services for their support and collaboration. They are very supportive of our work in the Valley. In addition, the outreach adhoc created a flyer, distributed among several organizations, attended a few in person events, shared on social media. Another success was the creation of a letter of support for the SDC project expressing the community’s concerns and interests as well as the Caltrans letter requesting Traffic and Safety improvements. In addition, sponsorship of events such as the NeighborFest, *Día de Los Muertos* (November 2021) and *Día del Niño* (April 2022).

The Springs is a vibrant and diverse location within Sonoma County. The MAC and over all community continue to face barriers in the areas of mental health, safe streets, a plaza, art projects and additional

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emergency preparedness. We have an extraordinary group of committed individuals who are ready and willing to donate their time and talent to support their community. Yet, moving initiatives forward is difficult due to lack of resources and accessible processes. Road safety, lack of affordable housing and minimal health and human services are all issues the MAC continues to confront on behalf of our community.

We would like to thank Supervisor Gorin, Karina Garcia, Lin Marie DeVincent, Jordi XXX, and KSVY for their ongoing support of our work.

Should you require additional details regarding the 2021-2022 activities of the Springs MAC do not hesitate to contact me; basqueinsonoma@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Maite Iturri, Chairperson
Springs Municipal Advisory Council

CC: Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, Karina Garcia, Arielle Kubu-Jones

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