



**North Sonoma Valley Municipal Advisory Council**  
 Notice of Meeting and Agenda  
**August 18, 2021**



**PLEASE NOTE:** This meeting will be conducted entirely by teleconference pursuant to the provisions of the Governor’s Executive Orders N-29-20 and N-35-20, suspending certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act. Members of the public will be recognized at the appropriate time via Zoom’s Raise Hand tool.

**Join Zoom Conference Meeting:**

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**Meeting ID: 995 1733 7782**

**Passcode: 970972**

**Join by Phone:** 1 (669) 900-9128  
 5:30 p.m.

Contact: Hannah Whitman, Board Aide for Supervisor Susan Gorin – [hannah.whitman@sonoma-county.org](mailto:hannah.whitman@sonoma-county.org)

**1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call**

- Absent: Dickey
- Present: Dawson, Nardo-Morgan, Doss, Handron, Eagles, Newhouser, Cooper

**2. Approval of July 21, 2021 minutes**

- Nardo-Morgan: Correction, she was at the meeting at 5:30 by phone
- Motion to approve: Eagles
- Second: Nardo Morgan
- Vote: 7-0-0

**3. Public Comment**

Receive

(Limited to items not appearing on the agenda)

**Alice Horowitz:** Surprised that after all of the talk last month about the housing numbers, neither Supervisor Gorin nor Scott Orr said anything about the appeal to lower the number of housing units from 3,881 to 1,910 units . It is a missed opportunity for She read about it in the paper. [ABAG.CA.GOV/news/appeals](http://ABAG.CA.GOV/news/appeals) it makes a great argument for why those numbers are unsustainable.

Dawson: Point of clarification, the number is for the entire county correct.

Alice: Yes, unincorporated Sonoma County.

Eagles: Who specifically filed that appeal

Dawson: County of Sonoma I think Dennis Wick was the signature on the letters, permit Sonoma I believe

Dawson: I’ve received several letters about the parking issue on Arnold and Carquines and Arnold Drive. I’m happy to read the letters, but I encourage any who are here to read the letters

Letters: Margie and Ritch Foster, Greg Guerazzi, Jeanne Reggio, Diana Hindley, Deb Pool and a letter on another matter from Deborah Nitasaka

Dawson reads public letters (included). Glen Ellen residents are concerned with the visibility and safety of the parked cars at the intersection of Arnold and Carquines.

**Minona Heaviland:** Sonoma Ecology Center is organizing creek clean-up and stewardship days. Making a regular program and looking for involvement from the MAC and communities. Currently planning for a big clean up day on

September 18 and also organizing a bulky items pick up day with Recology. Is there anyone from the MAC or Northern Sonoma Valley community [creek@sonomaecologycenter.org](mailto:creek@sonomaecologycenter.org) or reach out to **Minona** Heaviland or anyone at Sonoma Ecology Center.

Dawson: I personally understand. I would support doing something there (Arnold/Carquines Intersection)

Nardo-Morgan: seconds this. Traffic is increasing. It's daunting that seven members of the community wrote letters. Something needs to be done there. I support this.

Newhouser: I think as an issue before the MAC we may want to look at this from two perspectives. The short term remedy to act quickly on a specific item that's getting a lot of attention, but also we need to address this through our traffic & safety ad hoc so we make sure we are addressing this holistically and not just on a piecemeal basis.

Dawson: The members of the transportation committee would be interested in taking this on that would be a good thing. We can put you in touch with the letter writers. The committee is Councilmember Cooper, Eagles, and Morgan.

Supervisor Gorin: I'm not sure as I came in late, what the action is that you request. Are you requesting a stop sign, a red curb, or ? A stop sign is somewhat problematic.

Dawson: can I break in? Nobody is requesting a stop sign.

Morgan: The curb is already painted red, but people are still parking there and it's problematic. They really do want a no parking sign. It used to be a bus zone so nobody parked there. Let's Hannah and Ariel take this back to TPW. It is somewhat easy to paint a curb red, or add a no parking sign, enforcement does happen. To place a no parking sign, it must be placed on a board agenda, which takes a number of weeks. It's possible that this is a temporary problem due to the construction. If it impacts visibility we need to take care of that. We appreciate you bringing that to us, that's exactly what the MAC is for.

Cooper: do we need to do anything?

Sup Gorin: No this is pretty cut and dried, straight forward. Jed, since you are on that committee we can certainly outreach to you and the MAC and let you know what we've found. Thank you, this is easy to deal with.

Dawson: Debby Nitisaka's letter about drainage on her property. What is the role of the MAC?

Sup Gorin: The role of the MAC is rather limited. You can raise this as an issue and invite permit Sonoma back to explain how properties are permitted. A property is not allowed to drain on or through another person's property. Does that mean we are not going to have significant rain events where runoff is everywhere? Probably not. If it incurs damage, it's probably a civil litigation issue. Maybe we can take that to permit sonoma and come back to the Mac with it. Debby has raised that a number of times and I understand her concern.

Newhouser: Regarding the construction issue, it is incumbent on neighbors to reach out to each other and let them see the plans and let them know what's going on. Until there are significant changes in the way the permit process works, we are up to the whims of our neighbors. Having a forum like this, we can promote the idea of just being neighborly. If someone is building above you, you know it's going to have an impact. Maybe that's our role as the MAC is promoting communication.

Gorin: I appreciate your comments. It's great if you know your neighbors and can communicate with them, but it is different when someone comes in and builds a big house and has no interest in knowing the neighbors or talking to them. Neighbor on neighbor controversy.

#### 4. Supervisor Gorin Update

- You may have read in the paper yesterday that the board took the action yesterday to mandate vaccination for all employees. Sonoma County is the largest employer in the county. It doesn't mean people will be forced into vaccination, it means you will either have to show proof of vaccination or submit to weekly testing that would prove that you are cover negative. There is a group of folks at our meeting very vociferously objecting to any kind of mandates or vaccines or whatever. I don't want to get into a debate about the efficacy of vaccinations, but full disclosure, I'm vaccinated and sometime in the near future I expect to get the booster shot. One of the reasons I'm late tonight is we had another health briefing tonight. We are seeing increased numbers in our unvaccinated in our jails and our homeless shelters, and alarmingly among staff at care facilities. Mace has been in conversation with the Superintendent of Schools, Steve Harrington, and the Sheriff and a number of other providers and we think we are going to be moving forward in how we require a Covid test for entry into the homeless shelters or the jails. There may be some constitutional challenges with that, we'll see. We already have mandated vaccination among our law enforcement personel. We want them to be safe. Often, too often, they've been vaccinated and still they're contracting Covid because the delta variant is so verily and transmissible that it is overcoming the burriers. I expect you';I see more employers around the bay area will be requiring proof of vaccination or weekly negative tests. We are not going to be doing a lockdown as we did before, but we want everyone to exercise due caution and reach out to the people you know who are vaccine resistant and see if you can convince them to get vaccines as quickly as possible. They can go on SoCoEmergency, there are locations in the valley that do have vaccines. We have adequate vaccines unlike a lot of the rest of the world, and we're so fortunate to have that. We also have increased testing in the County.
- There is still renal assistance available If you know anyone who is struggling please contact our office and we can put you in touch with those providing rental assistance.. We are frantically concerned about those folks in danger of losing heir housing. We do not want anyone losing their housing.
- I think I'll end my report there. We're having a discussion tomorrow about community leaders. If you know folks in the community who might like to participate in the briefings every other week please let us know and we will add them to the list. Thank you chair Dawson for agreeing to be on the community leaders meeting tomorrow along with Chair Mike Tayaturi and Tim Freidman from the SVCAC. Explaining to our committee the function of the two MACs and the CAC I expect you will generate a lot of good conversation.
- One more update: We know that you have prioritized community preparedness in the event of any kind of emergency and we had a hand shake ceremony between the county and the school district at Altamera middle school. We accepted the Conex, the shipping container full of emergency supplies with two pallets of food ready to eat. I scored one of those packets and I'll be bursting it open to see how edible it really is. This is the beginning of good collaboration communication. I'm so grateful that we have great volunteers ready to dive in help our community be prepared. We had a few people lose power last night and this morning, but no fires, but we all smell the smoke today and it takes us back to where we were just a year ago. Thank you all.

- Dawson: Thanks to our emergency preparedness committee for really diving in and helping get our community ready for what hopefully won't happen, but probably will someday. I heard something about home Covid tests which sounds really appealing.
- Gorin: I'm not sure the County is providing them, but they are available at drug stores.
- Nardo-Morgan: I was exposed to Covid and my doctor sent me to CVS for the home kit. They are running out of tests, and will only let you have one.
- Gorin: I'm concerned that they are running out of tests. Please get vaccinated.
- Kubu-Jones: The county isn't doing rapid tests anymore because they are less accurate. They need to be followed up by a PCR test, the test that takes longer. It's good for peace of mind but they aren't as accurate if you aren't symptomatic.
- Handron: I have some concerns about the relatively low vaccination rate in Glen Ellen. I reached out to the health clinic to see if we can encourage people in our area who are much less vaccinated than our surrounding areas. I'm wondering if there is any action for that purpose.
- Gorin: I don't know of any specific action the County is taking, but I'm all ears, what should we be doing?
- Gorin: Jay if you're listening please do a little investigative reporting and find out why people aren't getting vaccinated. There are multiple reasons why people are not wanting to receive the vaccinated. 97% of people showing up in hospitals are unvaccinated. I don't want them to suffer serious health issues when a vaccination could help them, protect them, protect their families.
- Handron: Does the County have demographics of the people who are not vaccinated.
- Gorin: We have a couple of slides that may address that from the meeting yesterday we can send to you. We don't have a breakdown of the folks in Glen Ellen who are vaccinated and who are not.
- Morgan: Before you got here, Alice Horowitz spoke about an article that was published in the PD where they submitted a draft appeal for downgrading of housing units and they went from something like 3800 to 1900, and Alice is unable to speak now, but she was really interested in your comments. I'm wondering if you will comment on this.
- Gorin: I'm not exactly sure which article she is referring to. We do have state requirements that we must provide a certain number of parcels with the appropriate zoning to handle building for the units that have been assigned to us. What she might be referring to is that the county has been allocated by ABAG unincorporated a certain number of units the county must provide land for, at least land zoned for those units. David Rabbit as former president of ABAG voted no on that because we believe in city center growth growth should be covered and really incorporated within the urban borders the boundaries of the cities. THTS A microscopic way of looking at it, a macroscopic way is that we're having the same issue throughout the Bay Area. Historically, San Francisco and Oakland and San Jose have absorbed the lion's share of the growth for the Bay Area. We can thank them for building those units and creating housing for so many people, so many of our workforce and affordable housing, and there is a caveat they get the lion's share of the transportation dollars because we've made the policy decision to link housing and transportation. If we're concerned about our roads and not enough money to beef up our transit as much as we'd like, it's because we don't grow very fast, especially in Sonoma Valley. We're at the short end of the stick for transportation dollars. They get it more often than not. Santa Rosa has been really addressing and accepting growth in a very large way. We see the building in Rohnert Park for sure, Petaluma you see a lot of building along the freeway edges, and we thank them that's where a lot of our workforce lives. That's where our workforce lives, that's where OUR workforce lives, in Santa Rosa, which is why HWY 12 is congested because a lot of our workforce comes from Santa Rosa, but also from Napa, Solano, and Lake County, Mendocino

County as well. Is that what Alice is referring to that we should appeal the housing numbers that have been assigned to us, and we have done that.

- Newhouser: Just to clarify, Alice's concern was that when we had our PRMD spokesperson last meeting, there was no mention of the appeal that had been submitted by the PRMD questioning those numbers and asking for a reduction in those numbers and even though there were several comments from other citizens about the sustainability the carrying capacity questions and the disproportionate impact to the unincorporated areas expecting to fulfill these ABAG requirements, I think she was concerned as to why they didn't mention that. Why didn't the PRMD mention this appeal and what their thoughts were around this appeal?
- Gorin: I'm the alternate representative for ABAG but I never go to the meetings because David Rabbit always goes to those meetings but I do get the newsletters. At the last meeting they talked about the process by which they would address and respond to the 22 appeals by various jurisdictions including many of the jurisdictions in Marin county traditionally not be supportive of affordable housing or housing in general. I suspect that Permit Sonoma didn't mention that because it is unlikely that ABAG would uphold the appeal. I think they will say County, cities, this is the number of units you need to share in the responsibility of providing housing and you can figure out how to make that happen. Realistically I think our larger cities will absorb most of that growth and the County will lag somewhat in the production of housing though we do see a couple of opportunities in Sonoma Valley, one is the SDC, and no I'm not advocating 3000 units be built on the SDC, but there will be some number of units there, more than 2, probably more than 100, and the Hannah Boys Center, the land across the street from the HBC they've been talking about developing there for five years so don't hold your breath, but I suspect they may be moving forward in the next year to propose a sizable number of units, whatever sizable is, more than 100 probably less than 1000. Both of those areas, I think will have an impact on Arnold drive and we've already had conversations within the County about what kind of traffic improvements... potentially more roundabouts on Arnold to potentially slow the traffic down. Im going to be looking for some grant money for some traffic analysis and traffic calming and road improvements through the village of GE. At some point SDC will develop and we want to connect it more cohesively with the larger village and how do we make it, how do we create those safe walkable linkages.
- Public Comment:
- Alice: Thank you. Mark you summed up my concern very accurately I was concerned why we didn't talk about the appeal when we were talking about the appeal and I hear you that it is an appeal and it is unlikely to be approved, but I think it is important to have those discussions because when you read the appeal it makes a wonderful argument against sprawl, against building in the :?, against overloading our roads so that we can evacuate in case of disaster, against overuse of water and limited resources. One thing in the appeal that I do think is missing is the lack of any sort of reference to the environment, about wildlife, there is nothing referencing the wildlife and I think that's a shame. It's a fascinating document and I suggest everyone read it and hopefully those numbers for the County will be cut.
- Dawson: Hannah is there any way we can post that document?
- Hannah: I'll look into that.

## 5. Drought Awareness Yard Signs

Resolution

- Discuss allocation and distribution of Sonoma Water drought awareness yard signs
- Dawson: Hannah is going to share her image of yard signs.
- Hannah: Paul Piazza here from Sonoma Water if you have any questions.
- Dawson: Are they English on one side and Spanish on the other
- Paul: They are Spanish/English they have the ability to communicate in two languages.
- Eagles: Is the website translated or is it English only?

- Paul: The website is English only, but the good news is the new website will be live Monday and has the ability to translate into many different languages including Spanish.
- Eagles: Will you refresh on what we are determining tonight, more precisely for context.
- Dawson: We are deciding how many signs we need and how they will be distributed.
- Nordo-Morgan: Schools and Churches can give them out. Stores. I'm assuming the signs are free. Are they?
- Paul: The bulk of the signs were distributed to Sonoma Water's contractors, so in your area, VOM water district and city of Sonoma. We did suggest guidelines on how they want to make them available to their customers. We do have a number that we can make available to the MAC. We will leave it up to you to distribute. They are available here at the office at no cost. We are happy to provide some for your organization to distribute also.
- Handron: I'm giving a presentation to the Rotary club, I could bring some signs to distribute there.
- Paul: I know that I use the signs very effectively in locations that were owned by the city but were major traffic areas where they would get a lot of visibility. That alleviates some concerns about new signs showing up that might be unsightly. If you have other ideas, we are leaving it up to those who are interested in taking them over.
- Morgan: I would be happy to spearhead this project and get these signs out to the community.
- Dawson: I was thinking that this would be a great way to outreach for the MAC.
- Morgan: How do we physically get the signs?
- Paul: Give the number you need to Hannah or Ariel and they will communicate that to me. If I may, since I'm here tonight, for the benefit of your service area. I want to give a head's up about some events in your area. This Saturday we are hosting a drought drop by event. A three county event to distribute drought kits. The kits contain water efficient shower heads, aerators, dye tablets to detect leaks, five-minute shower timers, hose nozzles that is occurring this Saturday from 8-12 pm. Info about the locations is available on the website. [SavingWaterPartnership.org](http://SavingWaterPartnership.org) There is still time to save up for the saving water challenge. It consists of a list of 31 different ways people can take a pledge and sign up to save water and enter a drawing to win some pretty great water efficiency prizes including a high efficiency clothes washer, he toilet, weather base smart controller, Flume home watering devices, online platform for you to easily monitor your water use.
- Newhouser: Paul, thank you for broaching the subject of your prizes. Is it a reduction from your current usage, or a reduction to a certain level of water usage per capita. And my next question which is a little more challenging is about water saving tips and conflict with fire prevention and people are removing everything down to bare earth, I mean how do you square this inherent conflict between fire prevention and trying to save water?
- Paul: Thank you for those questions. In terms of the challenge, we have in the past set a water saving goal, but for this challenge there is no goal, there are just tips and recommendations on how much water those actions can save. In recognition of the various requirements to cut back in our region from Healdsburg to Marin, which geographically are very close have very different water reduction restrictions in place due to the severity of their supply issues so we didn't set a specific target As long as you sign up and take a pledge you are entered into the drawing as long as you are a customer of the partnership utilities that are sponsoring the event. Regarding the more difficult topic of mulches. We do a lot of work with the fire organizations in Sonoma county, in collaboration with master gardeners Sonoma Ecology Center, how the use of organic mulch can still be used effectively and safely as long as you adhere to the 0-5' principal where you've got no materials against the foundation that are flammable, that you're doing your additional practices to keep dead and dying material out of your landscape material. When you utilize these organic mulch materials especially if they have gone through an initial decomposition process which is fairly common to do, many of those products would not be as flammable as straight up chip wood. They tend more to smolder than outright catch fire. There is an appropriate use for those in regard to their distance and application that we suggest people adhere to.
- Chief Akre: The Sonoma Valley Fire district is in full support of all of these water saving measures. Early on we implemented our water conservation program which sadly didn't take a whole lot of layers of dust to remove from where we had been a couple of years ago. Whoever is leading this if that's councilmember

Morgan, we would be happy to be a recipient of signs at any of our fire stations so reach out to me or stop by our stations and let them know that we are part of the program.

## 6. **Sonoma Valley Fire District Update**

Receive

*Sonoma Valley Fire District Chief Steve Akre*

- Update on fire district and fire season
- I am going to stay focused on a couple of things. The first one is the 2021 fire season, the current season we're in. As I can imagine everyone is reading in the news, this is a very very impactful serious fire season. The single largest fire in the history of California the Dixi fire that continues to devastate communities and exhibit behaviors that we typically do not see in August. We've had two other incidents over the last couple of days, one is The Caldor fire that is threatening the community of Pollok Pines. Today we had an incident in Lake County the Cached fire that impacted homes in the community of Clearlake. We have been pretty fortunate here within Sonoma County and Sonoma Valley so far. We have had some smaller significant incidents here, vegetation fire on Grove street a couple of months ago. A number of fires on the Montini preserve, just north of the City of Sonoma. We are taking action with the Police Department, Cal Fire, and Homeless Services to address some homeless encampments that we believe at least contribute to the possibility of those fires. So back to what we're doing here with the 2021 fire season I'm one of four operational area coordinators for fire resources within the County, and we take a very active very proactive approach to making sure we have adequate resources to respond when we have weather events like we did last night with the red flag warning and the PSPS event. In addition to many resources that the county has committed to the Dixi fire as well as the Caldore fire, we upstaffed an additional 8 fire resources in the County last night. That's in addition to the crews that are already on duty at each of the fire stations. This is additional supplemental staffing that we bring up. Thankfully we didn't have any fire incidents as a result of the red flag and PSPS but we did launch that task force of 8 units to the Cash fire to help out our neighbors in Lake County because they were losing homes and there were civilian injuries as well. It is a very serious fire season and we are doing our best in response. We are also doing our best in other measures with vegetation management which is another topic the MAC wanted an update on. I do not have the details for the Kenwood district, I know they are an active participants in the vegetation inspection management program. Our vegetation management program is focused on the springs area known as the Maze. That is that area of former vacation cabins and whatnot on the east side of 12 east of the Fairmont, Mountain, Park, Hillside, that kind of area. We've done about 300 inspections in that area. We've gotten a phenomenal response from the community both in terms of their eagerness and acceptance of the program and the hard work they've done to make that area fire safe and their properties more defensible in the case of the fire. We're very proud of that. We've completed the first round of inspections and are almost done with completing the follow up inspections. Our partner Cal Fire continues to do their LE100 defensible space inspections in the state responsibility area out of the Glen Ellen station. I don't know where they've been yet this year. Glen Ellen station covers the Kenwood Glen Ellen, and Mayacama areas, they've been in those areas doing their inspections. I also want to note a couple of success stories the PG&E vegetation management grant program the Mayacama fire safe council was awarded a quarter of a million dollars to do roadside clearances and they have done a phenomenal job of clearing along trinity and cavedale roads. Led by Lisa Warner she was the chair of the Mayacama firesafe council since its inception. She wrote the grant and has seen the project through to its completion. We've also got strong work being done by the Grove street firesafe council to improve that exit/evacuation rout through grove street. I'm also proud of our district Sonoma Valley Fire District and our fire Marshall Trevor Smith who put in for a grant for a chipper program and we are now the owners of a chipper and are in the process of implementing a chipper program in our service area. The grant is for \$100,000 and we anticipate having the program up and running by early next year well in advance of next fire season. The MAC talked about emergency preparedness and I wanted to offer up again the Sonoma Valley and Kenwood fire district offer the SCOPE program training program for residents we have done that collaboratively a number of times. I know with Covid it's another challenge we hit the pause button on in-person, but we have a lot of resources available and we are very excited to continue to reach out and inform the community Our Lead person on this program he serves both districts is Captain Ben Golson, a Captain Paramedic with the Sonoma Valley Fire District for 30 years and a Assistant Cheif as a volunteer with the Kenwood fire district. He is available to come provide any

emergency preparedness training that the MAC would like to pursue. Another role that I'm in is I serve on the Fire service working group which is a sub-committee of the Sonoma County Fire Chiefs Association we advise the fire Ad Hoc of the Board of Supervisors we are working diligently on creating a new County-wide sales tax to support fire services within the county. While it doesn't specifically mandate consolidations, the funding that will become available through that measure will not only improve fire services throughout the County, but it will allow for consolidations to occur where partners are willing and interested in pursuing that. The Kenwood fire district is in talks with the County administrators office about receiving ongoing funding from the County in order to stabilize their budget right now immediately with the hope of getting out of deficit spending. The Sonoma Valley Fire District both our career and volunteer elements (over 100 personnel) are over 90% vaccinated. We encourage those who aren't to consider, we do have a mandate now coming into play September 1st that those who are not vaccinated and all health care workers either be vaccinated or be tested weekly. I just received an email tonight about continued testing opportunities and locations for any resident and that came out in both Spanish and English.

- Doss: Would you please address the role of mutual aid and how that works and the coordination of the districts and the different departments through red comm so folks can understand how we cover the County when there's a flare up like the fifty acre fire in Santa Rosa last week.
- There is a couple of levels. First of all we have automatic aid through our computerized dispatch system. If we have a fire in Glen Ellen, the Kenwood station would be automatically be dispatched to help out, and so would Sonoma County's resources out of Bennett Valley, as well as Sonoma Valley's resources in Agua Caliente and Glen Ellen and others. Once we get past the automatic aid, we have alarm assignments. As the alarm assignments grow, they're already pre-programmed into a computer dispatch system, so for example when the Yano rd fire hit they received an initial dispatch of a wild land response and then quickly, almost immediately red comm was dispatching the next alarm assignment for that area and that continues. Every agency has alarm assignments built out to third or fourth alarm. If it goes past that, then Red comm also via the computer aided dispatch system, can if there is an order for additional resources, the next five closest engines or water tenders or chief officers will show up in the cad and be dispatched upon their request. Additionally we have our partners in Cal Fire, even the Yano fire which is a local responsibility area fire and doesn't receive an immediate cal fire dispatch, our cal fire partners are very willing and able to respond and they get dispatched as well on a significant incident like that. If that fire was to go even further, we would get resources from neighboring operational areas (counties), Marin, Mendocino, and Napa counties coming in to Sonoma to the incident as well as backfill stations to make sure we can continue to provide service to all of the communities within Sonoma County.
- Doss: I just want people to understand how quickly it kicks in. Last week when they had the 50 acre fire in Santa Rosa out by Bono rd, two engines were dispatched from Kenwood, not to fight the fire, but to fill the holes for those who did fight the fire. There were people on board and ready to go. In the 2017 fire there was a unit from San Francisco parked in plaza park in Kenwood right in front of the Community Church they were ready to go just in case... the fire that did take out 130 homes on the other side of Kenwood. Just how they work and I didn't know about Red Comm and how it works until I joined the fire board. Kenwood is looking to the County for additional dollars to erase the deficits and consider consolidation which I think would be a great advantage to the services within Kenwood. A good example why there are deficits sometimes is because it's a red flag warning, there are five or six fire fighters on duty today. We are a 2-0 station. Normally we have two full time, occasionally three-0 with a volunteer. That's an expense that is not necessarily a budgetary item. We do try to budget but you never know how many we're going to have. If this is the only red flag warning we have this fiscal year, OK, that would be not a big deal financially, but probably that's not going to happen. There are always challenges, especially for local independent fire districts. We are now the doughnut hole, we are surrounded by consolidated fire districts in Sonoma and Santa Rosa. That's a decision to be made in the next year so regarding outcomes of elections and chief Gullek will be here next month so I'll let him address some of the issues on the politics of the election.
- Steve: Did you want to inform the MAC about some of the vacancies on the Kenwood board?
- Doss: Oh yes thank you! We're down to three and are going to be soliciting for two more members to get a full board.
- **Public Comment:**



- **Ellen:** I have a question for the fire chief. I had requested the Sonoma Valley fire authority to come in and check my property because I lost over 70 trees in the Tubbs fire and they're still laying dead on my hillside. I've just finished the work of everything they asked me to do and I'm wondering if there would be any time for them to come back and let me know if I missed anything and to feel like at least somebody is listening to me.
- **Steve:** Absolutely Ellen Thank you for reaching out to us, and also more for your work to make your property and your neighbors more fire safe. I will pass on, I'm sure we have your contact information I will read out with them and ask them to contact you to do the follow up inspection. I imagine yours is in the follow up stack. I will definitely follow up and schedule a time to come out and do the follow up.
- **Alice:** Thank you so much Chief Akre is there a means of requesting an inspection for a property that is not mine and for which the neighbors might not be all that psyched to be inspected.
- **Steve:** Yes, there are a number of layers of our program. The vegetation management inspection program is a program that we identify in coordination with the County. A target number of properties each year. Neither the County nor us has the ability to inspect all of the properties within our service area. We do take voluntary requests from property owners the best thing to do would be to go on to our website [SVFRA.org](http://SVFRA.org) and you'll see in one of the drop downs a weed and hazard complaint form the best thing to do is fill out that form online and one of our officers will go out and inspect for fire hazards.
- **Doss:** Is there a minimum parcel size for the chipper program?
- **Steve:** I don't know at this point we are still developing the procedures. My guess is that there will not be. There are going to be specific requirements. District staff is not going to be able to cut trees and brush and haul them. It will be modeled after the current County program. Property owners will need to cut and trim vegetation and then haul it down to the roadside. District staff would then chip that material and leave it right there at the roadside.
- **Doss:** Get neighbors to chip in.
- **Steve:** Yeah, there is a lot to be said for that. Many hands make light work, neighbors helping neighbors. And we get a lot more done if we can do a few houses in a row. Once we get the details of that program solidified I will share them with the MAC so we can get that pushed out.

## 7. Protocols for Approving NSV MAC Letters

Resolution

- Review draft protocols for approval of letters from the NSV MAC
- **Doss:** Vicky and I worked on, sent out the draft so we are presenting that to the MAC. We are an advisory part so we don't have any direct power, but hopefully we have some influential power. It seems like having the ability to send out a letter that is approved by the MAC would be one of the more powerful ways to influence decisions. Hannah do you have the letter on screen?
- Hannah shares letter on screen.
- **Doss:** reads first paragraph Procedures for North Sonoma Valley Municipal Advisory Council Letters. In particular I'm thinking about the emergency preparedness stuff that's going on. Other things might be traffic concerns in Glen Ellen. It sounds like the situation is simple enough that we don't have to do a letter on it. The ad hoc might do a letter that highlights the top three concerns right now.
- **Newhouser:** Specifically it was for fundraising. You don't really address that, and I don't know if it should or not, but the need for a support letter from the MAC was specifically for a grant proposal. And so that may be an example contained within this paragraph.
- **Doss:** That was the intent, but we could add something about current or pending efforts including grant proposals by County agencies.
- **Eagles:** I don't know if we're ready to do that. Is that OK for us to do? We have a budget. This will complicate tonight's discussion. I suggest that we treat that separately rather than offer the letter of support.
- **Doss:** Personally, I'd be willing to leave that to be figured out later.
- **Newhouser:** That's the only example I can think of everything else is hypothetical. The only real request is a specific request for a grant proposal.
- **Handron:** what we were speaking about earlier today, putting that parking sign up this letter could be used for that to write a letter of support for that position.

- Doss: I got the idea that Supervisor Gorin that she got the message and if nothing comes of this in a couple of months, I'd say yes, let's do a letter.
- Eagles: Supporting something like a grant might be appropriate, I thought I was confused that we were actually a grant process and that's not what you were saying. you were saying that you support another effort or a grant proposal that is separate from us. In which case my objection is silly, I misunderstood potentially.
- Doss: that's how I see it. If an organization is applying for a grant, we can offer our letter of support to help them get the grant.
- Eagles: If that's the case, I have no objection, I apologize.
- Newhouser: Now that I think about it, I am fine with it. Move on.
- Doss: How far in advance should we have the letter? Two weeks?
- Hannah: 48 hours
- Ariel: noon on the Friday before the meeting is best so we have time to add it to the packet and get it on the website.
- Doss: How about if we have it be no later than noon the Friday before the meeting.
- Ariel: That's fine with me.
- Newhouser: Can I make a suggestion? Because meeting days can change, can we make it five business days prior to the meeting?
- Ariel: Yes, totally fine
- Doss: Hannah do you want to edit this now?
- Hannah: I can't edit the pdf, I can take notes and edit it later.
- Doss: Can we still vote on adopting this if we don't have the final version in front of us as long as we are all on board with the changes.
- Ariel: Yes unless we get into extensive edits.
- Cooper: Can we write edits in and give them to Ariel?
- Doss: Yes we can make edits and send them to Hannah and then vote on them when it comes to the meeting.
- Cooper: Do we have to wait until the meeting to give changes, or can we send them to you and you can make the changes before the next meeting, rather than do this at the meeting.
- Hannah: To clarify it was sent out with the agenda, you could prepare the changes you want and discuss them at the meeting.
- Cooper: Do we have to wait until the meeting.
- Hannah: I believe the if the ad hoc was working on changes together.
- Ariel: If everyone wants to make changes and send them to Hannah that would be fine, but it's up to the chair how you want to handle that. There are different ways to deal with it, we could have a word document and make live edits, I don't have it either, I just have a pdf. There are different ways to deal with it.
- Doss: My picture of this is that we would come to the meeting with a draft, make some small changes and we vote on support. So we would have something to vote on at the meeting so it doesn't take months to get a letter. If approved we send it to the recipient. Would it get sent through the supervisor's office. Would we get approval and then send them.
- Ariel: It depends on the letter. If you want a letter from the MAC to be included in the grant proposal, he could just hand it to them. If it was for TPW, it would make sense to send it through us. It really depends on the letter.
- Doss: I am not sure I understand the difference between sending it through the supervisor's office and sending it from us. At least until we've done this a few times. How about just if approved, the sending of the letter is done as advised from the supervisor's office. We would let Susan know and she will say yes send it.

- Newhouser: Suggested wording? If approved letter is sent to recipients by North Sonoma Valley MAC, Ad Hoc Committee or Supervisor's office, as appropriate.
- Doss: But this isn't from an ad hoc it's from the whole MAC. It will have more power if it's the MAC than if it's just the ad hoc.
- Ariel: I think there is a misunderstanding. The letter would always be from the whole mac, it's a question of who distributes the letter.
- Doss: Newhouser how do you want to word it?
- Newhouser: If approved letter is sent to recipients by North Sonoma Valley MAC, Ad Hoc Committee or Supervisor's office, as appropriate.
- Doss: Thumbs up if you're good with that. OK
- Newhouser: Who signs the letters?
- Doss: Everyone on the MAC who voted for it, or everyone.
- Newhouser: Suggestion: Chair and in the absence of the chair the vice-chair
- Nardo-Morgan: Agreed.
- Newhouser: You always have a signature on a letter and it should be the chief representative.
- Doss: Thumbs up everyone. I agree. I'm good with that.
- Doss: Reads general guidelines.
- Eagles: I agree with them all, I would say that if the MAC approves it, we don't get into the numbers. If the MAC approves it it's a go.
- Doss: Agreed
- All: Agreed
- Newhouser: Do we have to have approval from the supervisor for a letter say if one has been approved by the MAC itself do we have to get final approval from the supervisor before we send it out.
- Hannah: That would be up to you, I'm assuming that you want her approval.
- Ariel: You don't need her approval, but you would want it. They will be about things in your purview, which is approved by her. The letter is going to be about something that came up at a MAC meeting. I don't know that you need her final approval on the letter after you've approved it, like an extra layer of sign off.
- Cooper: Shouldn't we have a policy that anything sent out from the MAC has to be approved by her, I mean we do work for her.
- Ariel: In your bylaws it says you don't go out reaching to County departments on your own.
- Doss: That does seem like it's covered by the bylaws, otherwise we become a rogue
- Handron: I don't feel we work for Susan Gorin, we work for the community. We're supposed to be the voice of the community. If we want to endorse a message that isn't popular, we should be able to do that.
- Cooper: Yes we are supposed to be her eyes and ears in the community but I don't think they're mutually exclusive.
- Doss: The supervisor wouldn't have to necessarily agree with it. She could still approve it and let us send it out.
- Ariel: It isn't vital but if you want to add it in you can.
- Doss: Do we feel like we need it in writing thumbs up, If you feel like it already in the bylaws. Looks like we will leave it out we have consensus on that. If something isn't working down the road we can change it.
- Doss: Do we have a motion to accept
- Newhouser: Motion to approve
- Nardo-Morgan:Second
- Motion Approved 7:0

DOSS: Do we have to do the reappointments this month or can we do it next month.

Hannah: I can do it quickly, but if you're pressed for time we don't have to do it.

Doss: Let's hear about reappointments and then push the reports to next month.

Hannah: Presents on Councilmember Appointments.

Newhouser: First question; what about alternates do alternates become member  
Does this have anything to do with the notices I've been getting from the County about an application?

Hannah: Everyone has gotten them

Ariel: I don't know anything about appointments, but it's probably automated.

Newhouser: Do we have to reapply if we've already been appointed?

Hannah: You do not have to reapply and I'll look into it. In terms of alternate if you have been appointed as an alternate you are an alternate if you would like to reapply as a regular member you can.

Ariel: The vacancy we have is for an alternate.

Newhouser: Are you going to ask the question about the four individuals?

Hannah: You can email us here if you intend to be reappointed. Supervisor Gorin plans to reappoint you all.

Doss: When do we do the election

Hannah: That would be at the next meeting.

Ariel: I've never witnessed that but it's often done in person at the meeting as long as you have a quorum and don't violate the Brown act. We will check on who runs that item. Can the chair run the item for someone who wants to unseat them it could be controversial.

Nardo-Morgan: Can we vote to reinstate Dawson?

Ariel: Yep

Nardo-Morgan: I'd do that

Ariel: Save it for the next meeting.

Doss: we can move on to the next item.

Hannah: Public comments on any reappointments to the MAC maybe there is someone out there who would like to serve.

**8. Reappointments to North Sonoma Valley MAC** Receive  
• Information on processes and timeline for reappointments

**9. Reports and Announcements from Councilmembers and Ad Hocs (3 minutes or less)** Receive  
• SVCAC  
• Glen Ellen Forum  
• Communications Ad Hoc  
• Preparedness Ad Hoc  
• Traffic and Safety Ad Hoc  
• Eldridge/SDC Ad Hoc  
• Others as Appropriate

## 10. Consideration of items for future agenda

Receive

- Kenwood Fire District update
- Ecology Center- 30 minutes
- Elections
- STC activation- short list of things you plan to do.

## 11. Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn: Eagles
- Second: Nardo-Morgan
- Motion approved: 8:38

Resolution

*Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the North Valley Municipal Advisory Council after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Board of Supervisors' Office located at 575 Administration Drive, Room 100-A, Santa Rosa, CA, during normal business hours.*

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Note: Consideration of agenda items will proceed as follows:

1. Presentation
2. Questions by Councilmembers
3. Questions and comments from the public
4. Response by presenter, if required
5. Comments by Councilmembers
6. Resolution, if indicated

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Web Links: <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/North-Valley-Municipal-Advisory-Council/>