



## Sonoma Coast Municipal Advisory Council

Scott Farmer, Chair

May 20, 2020 MAC Meeting, 5:30 pm – 7:30pm

In accordance with Executive Order N-25-20 and N-29-20 regarding the Brown Act for public meetings during the public health emergency, this meeting will be held virtually. The meeting will be in spanish and english on Zoom and also on facebook live:

- Zoom in english: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88277346345>
- Para ver y escuchar en español, utilice el siguiente enlace para abrir: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88277346345>  
Van a tener una opción seleccionar español al final de la página.
- Or available via facebook live on Supervisor Hopkins Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/supervisorlyndahopkins/>

Public Comment and Questions will be taken via hand raising in Zoom or Facebook comments

### Meeting Agenda

#### Members

##### Bodega/Valley Ford

Che Casul

Alternate: Misty West

Gay

##### Timber Cove

Scott Farmer, Chair

Alternate: Annie

Cresswell

##### Sea Ranch/Annapolis

Marti Campbell

Dibby Tyler

Alternate: Paul Plakos

##### Kashia Band/Pomo

Indians Abreanna Gomes

##### Fort Ross

Wanda Swenson

Alternate: Chris Fohner

##### Jenner

Cal Ares

Alternate: Elizabeth

Gallagher

##### Bodega Bay

Brooks Rooney

Cathy Beck

Alternate: Bob Amiral

Clerk: Nance Jones

Staff: Elise VanDyne

#### Pledge of Allegiance

#### Roll Call

##### A. Approval of Agenda

##### B. Statement(s) of conflict of interest: if any, from Council members

##### C. Correspondence

##### D. Consent Calendar: Approval of minutes of January 15, 2020 Coast MAC

##### E. Public Comment

This time is for comment from the public regarding matters of general interest not on the agenda, related to the Sonoma Coast MAC business. Pursuant to the Brown Act, no action or discussion is taken on public comment unrelated to the agenda. Comments will be limited to 1-2 minutes per person; time limits at the discretion of the Chair.

##### F. Information / Presentation : None

##### G. Regular Calendar Items (Discussion and/or Action)

- Supervisor Lynda Hopkins Update on issues affecting the community during the Shelter-In-Place
- Panel of Parks and Enforcement leadership in questions involving Coastal Parks during Shelter-In-Place including how decisions are made on the closures and soft opening, best guess on plans moving forward, options proposed by residents, ways to provide feedback.
  - Recreational Parks Director Bert Whitaker on Coastal Parks Opening
  - State Parks Regional Director Mike Lair
  - California Highway Patrol Captain Aristotle Wolfe
- Communication Plan
- Land Use / Events Permit Process
- TIF Priorities and Process
- New Agenda setting process

##### H. Council Member and Staff Reports

- Sunset 2019/Appointment of 2020 AdHoc Committees by the Chair
  - Sunset TIF, Agenda, LCP
  - Appoint Emergency preparedness, Land Use
- Staff Report – Fire Town Hall, LCP next Steps

##### I. Call for Agenda Items

##### J. Adjournment

Sonoma Coast Municipal Advisory Council

Che Casul/Scott Farmer Chair

January 15, 2020 5:30-7:30

Timber Cove Inn 21780 Highway 1 Jenner, California 95450

**Meeting called to order** – Mac Clerk Nance Jones

**Pledge of Allegiance-** All

**Roll Call-** Present: Che Casul, Cal Ares, Cathy Beck, Marti Campbell, Scott Farmer, Abreanna Gomes, Wanda Swenson, Brooks Rooney, Dibby Tyler

**Statement of Conflict of Interest-** none

**Approval of Agenda** – Kathy Beck moved to approve agenda. Motion seconded by Dibby Tyler. Motion carried 9-0-0

**Consent Calendar**

1. **Approval of 11-20-19 minutes-** Kathy Beck moved to approve minutes from 11-20-19 with corrections. Brooks Rooney seconded motion. Motion carried 9-0-0
2. **Annual Election of Chair and Vice Chair-**
  - a. Che Casul asked for nominations from the group for chair. Scott Farmer self-nominated himself and the group approved the nomination 9-0-0
  - b. Marti Campbell self-nominated herself for vice chair and the group approved the nomination 9-0-0.

Note: From this point on Scott Farmer acted as chair of the Council.

**Board Reports/Comments-**

Agenda Committee- Che Casul reported since this current meeting is dedicated to the LCP information gathering and report other agenda items will be reviewed for the next meeting. During the board meeting council members can bring up agenda items and submit them for future meetings.

TOT- Scot Farmer reported that no meeting has happened since the initial meeting but the group is very close to making recommendations.

LCP Bodega- Kathy Beck reported that on January 9<sup>th</sup> an LCP review and comment meeting was held at the Bodega Grange for local members to give feedback.

Kathy Beck also reported the consolidation process is occurring for bodega Bay and Russian River both and her hope is that there is excellent support for this to move forward.

Che Casul- also reported that there is a new Health Inspector and many local restaurants were closed after his review. This is a detriment to business and communities and he has followed up with Lynda to see what can be done.

## **LCP Public Workshop**

### **Presenters:**

**Cecily Condon, Milan Nevajda, Gary Helfrich**

### **Permit Sonoma**

Cecily and Milan started the meeting by talking about the commitment to work with the coastal communities throughout this process and champion the needs of the coast. Milan also reported that Lynda Hopkins is a strong advocate and champion for the coastal communities.

Cecily started the meeting by giving an overview of the timeline and process and some key areas they are looking at.

### **Timeline:**

**Project Launch-** 17 years ago Preliminary workshops started in 2015 with a hiatus during the 2017 fires.

**Preliminary workshops** – Began in late 2019 and will continue until Spring of 2020.

**Board of Supervisor Approval-** It is planned to be presented to the Board of Supervisors during the summer of 2020.

### **Highlights of Information-**

A local coastal plan is required for every coast. It has no jurisdiction in coastal waters. The Coastal Zoning Code implements the Coastal Plan. Once the plan is certified by the Coastal Commission there is local control over land use. The administrative policies and procedures will be completed after certification of plan. The plan is to address them in 2020. Separated guidelines from policies.

Areas being addressed in Plan are:

Geologic Hazards

Sea Level Rise

Water Quality

Public Access

Biotic Resources

(See attachments available at the meeting for more detail.)

### **Board Comments to Overview-**

Marti Campbell- Sea Ranch has submitted exhaustive comments. Affordable housing is off the charts. There is Burbank Housing in the Sea Ranch area but not enough. Marti urges the planners to consider an amendment.

Kathy Beck- Urges the planners to consider the impacts of tourism and when is it too much.

Cal Ares Seconds both previous comments and grazing does not need a coastal permit. Cal also identified affordable housing as an issue. Housing is bad on coast and it does not function well as it is so expensive everywhere.

Che Casul- Must have sustainable practices and clear growth to maintain pasture lands

Scott Farmer- Talked to a letter to Lynda Hopkins from Matt Green which addresses the critical nature of removing fuel loads.

Dibby Tyler- Addressed the priority for affordable housing and a plan for reducing auto traffic. Bicycles are not really an option on these roads as the coast is not geographically set up for bicycles.

Brooks Rooney- Affordable housing and short-term housing is needed in Bodega. Brooks also talked to the traffic congestion on the roads and identified that this needed to be addressed.

Wanda Swenson- Concurred with all the previous comments and also identified that the coast is maxed out on visitors. Emergency Service Workers need affordable housing. Wanda also addressed that rain water catchment should also be addressed.

Scott Farmer as the Chair moved to suspend comment rules to enhance the dialogue. Che Casul seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0-0.

### **Public Comment-**

Milan led the public input portion of the meeting and the following are general highlights/themes of the input given by the attending public members:

- Many comments regarding the need for affordable housing and that must be considered in the plan
- Evacuation routes are needed for fire and disaster planning. There are many one lane roads that will have to be addressed with fire personnel going up and evacuees going down
- A suggestion was made as to how to subsidize current housing costs to make living in the coastal area more affordable
- Fuel loads must be addressed. While there has not been a large-scale fire in a while it has happened and fuel loads are high currently.
- County and State Park Involvement- The county will be authoring state comments and the state will act as a reviewing body to the plan
- The county is applying to FEMA looking for a carrot and stick method to begin clearing fuel loads. The LCP needs to facilitate this to occur as the prices now for home and landowners is exorbitant. Fire Prevention Grants are very competitive right now and the coastal area has not

been successful in obtaining them. This region needs a fire prevention plan. It was acknowledged by Milan that a Community Based Fire Plan will be required.

- Copies of the plan were made by a community member for board members and community members to obtain if they so choose
- There was much discussion that there is not enough time to review the entire plan due to length and time. A request was made for more time to review plan.
- A comment was made that all the issues are integrated so that broadband, electricity, phones and developing micro grids should be part of the coastal plan.

Many of these comments were reiterated by most of the attendees

The workshop portion of the meeting was then closed at this point.

#### **Public Comment Unrelated to the workshop\_**

Mike Nichols Chair of the Russian River MAC announced that on March 3<sup>rd</sup> there is a ballot measure for a tax increase for fire protection. He roughly estimated that Cazadero will receive approximately 900K if ballot measure goes through and thought that Timber Cover would receive close to the same but not sure of final amount. He asked the group to support the measure.

#### **Adjournment-**

Che Casul made a motion to adjourn meeting at 7:30. The motion was seconded by Kathy Beck. Motion carried 9-0-0.

## **Community Engagement and Outreach Plan for the Coast Municipal Advisory Council**

### **I. Introduction**

The Coast Municipal Advisory Council (Coast MAC) was established to advise the Board of Supervisors and other County decision makers on proposed projects located within, or related to, the Sonoma Coastal region, to provide a regular forum for citizen participation in the formation of advisory recommendations on those decisions, and to provide a bridge for communication between the County and local residents, businesses, and the general public on local government decisions affecting the Coast.

### **A. Purpose Statement**

*The Community Engagement and Outreach Plan will clarify how the Coast MAC shall serve as an inclusive and accessible conduit of information.*

### **B. Council Member Responsibilities**

1. In order to facilitate community engagement, the Coast MAC will make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and other County decision makers on the following Advisory Topics:

- a) Issues brought to the Council by ad hoc committees;
- b) Use permit applications;
- c) Rezoning applications;
- d) General Plan amendment applications;
- e) Prioritization of transportation and transit improvements;
- f) Health and human safety-net services; and
- g) Additional topics requested by the District Supervisor.

2. The duties of the Coast MAC shall include:

- a) Hold regular open and public meetings;
- b) Promote and encourage public comment;
- c) Study and analyze the Advisory Topics;
- d) Keep the District Supervisor informed of any issues related to the Advisory Topics within the community;
- e) Provide advisory recommendations on the Advisory Topics and annual reports to the Board of Supervisors; and
- f) Comply with Sonoma County Municipal Advisory Council policies and procedures.

### **C. Soliciting Public Input**

1. When asking for input from the community, the Coast MAC will focus on:
  - a) Requesting feedback on specific items on the agenda;
  - b) Suggested agenda items that reflect constituent issues; and

c) Issues specific to individual neighborhoods and/or districts.

D. Steps For After Receiving Public Input:

1. Determine whether the topic is pertinent to the Coast MAC:
  - a) If not, refer the constituent or issue to appropriate County personnel.
  - b) If so, continue to the next step.

2. Share public information with the Chair of the Council and District 5 personnel.

3. Research the topic or issue to become more familiar with what is currently being done in the County.

4. Determine if the topic or issue is relevant to more than one district: a) If it is specific to only your district, talk with your constituents to determine the best course of action (e.g. Community meeting or town hall, letter of support, recommendation to the Board of Supervisors, meeting with a County department or agency).

b) If it is relevant to more than one district, form an ad hoc committee of Coast MAC members to develop a plan of action and propose a solution.

II. Implementation

This section covers the goals, strategies, and actions necessary for the Coast MAC to carry out the Community Engagement and Outreach Plan.

A. Goals 1. Distribute MAC meeting dates and agendas to the public;

2. Inform the public of the purpose of the MAC;

3. Develop multiple ways for the public to reach their district's Council Member representative;

4. Develop multiple ways for Council Members to communicate with and engage their constituents;

5. Establish outreach to underserved and underrepresented constituents.

B. Strategies and Actions

1A. *Post meeting flyers at key locations within each district:*

A. Council Members should identify appropriate locations and post flyers and agendas.

1B. *Encourage Council Members to use their personal tools of communication to share meeting dates and agendas.*

1C. *Post meeting dates through local media:*

A. For Coast MAC meetings, the District 5 Field Representative will lead the outreach and distribution of materials; a. Council Members are responsible for amplifying the message and sharing the materials.

B. For Council Member-organized community meetings, the Council Member will lead the outreach and distribution of materials; a. The District 5 Field Representative will provide support as asked or needed.

2A. *Post the Coast MAC purpose and responsibilities wherever appropriate:*

A. Partner with existing community groups and pages to add a link to the Coast MAC webpage;

B. Council Members should identify appropriate locations to post a description of the Coast MAC and their contact information.

*3A. Council members will create opportunities for the public to interact with them, both in-person and virtually:*

A. Hosting public forums and meetings;

B. Attend the meetings of existing community and neighborhood groups;

C. Identify point people and community leaders to serve as liaisons.

*3B. Council Members will coordinate with the District 5 Field Representative to be aware of pertinent community events that Coast MAC representatives should be present at.*

*4A. Utilize various channels of communications to engage with constituents:*

A. Create/Use the Sonoma coast MAC email list, accessible via the Field Representative.

B. (Optional) Establish a social media page or group;

a. Council Members should note that if/when establishing a personal site or page, they must comply with the County's social media policy and remain representative of the Coast MAC body as a whole, not as an individual.

*5A. Share recordings of past meetings when such recordings have been made through the channels of communication listed in Strategy 4A.*

*5B. Identify existing institutions, agencies, and community centers that can assist with sharing information.*

5C. Ensure that all mac materials available online are ADA and translation accessible.



## **DRAFT**

### Sonoma Coast Municipal Advisory Council Permit Review process for Land Use and Events

- 1) Applications - reviewed by District Director, Leo, and Permit/Land Use AdHoc committee. Applications of significant interest to the community will be sent to the Ad Hoc for review.
- 2) MAC adhoc committee
  - a. meets monthly
  - b. invites public if there is a permit to be reviewed
  - c. determines based on timing if permits can be reviewed at MAC, AdHoc meeting, or a special meeting
  - d. invites applicant and public to any Land Use meeting
- 3) Applicant presents project at public meeting
- 4) Public and Board comment on application
- 5) Public Comment and applicant response as captured during the meeting is sent to Permit Sonoma within 3 working days
- 6) Post Event: Capture event follow-up. Give Permit Sonoma input based on community experience with event.

#### Responsibility of Permit/Land Use AdHoc

- 1) Review and request review for permits of community concern.
- 2) Schedule meeting - either forthcoming MAC or a special public adhoc meeting if timing requires.
- 3) Publicizing meeting
- 4) Capturing public/MAC comment and applicant response, send to Permit Sonoma
- 5) gather follow-up input post-event and send to Permit Sonoma.



## **Tourism Impact Fund (TIF) Grant Funding Policy Recommendations**

### **Sonoma Coast Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) District**

The Sonoma County Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) is a tax on accommodations at lodging and camping facilities in the unincorporated areas of the County. From this fund, each Supervisorial District in Sonoma County receives a percentage for discretionary projects within each district under the Tourism Impact Fund (TIF). These funds are awarded in small grants to not-for-profit organizations to create improvements or change within their community. Awards within the Sonoma Coast MAC region are based on the TIF funding priorities and criteria reported below. In times of significant, unexpected events such as fires, floods, or public health emergencies, these priority recommendations may be set aside in favor of funding emergency needs at the discretion of the Supervisor.

MAC representatives and Supervisorial staff will notify the community when the application period is open for grants and will be available to coach you through the grant process, should you need it.

#### Overall Funding Criteria

- Applicants must be a not-for-profit entity
- Positive consideration will be given to those projects that can demonstrate matching funds or leverage community resources
- Fairness across communities within the district will be considered, such as:
  - Where the TOT revenue is generated/Tourism Impacts will be taken into account.
  - Multiple years will be considered. If, for example, a large project is awarded in one community, the following year(s) there will be greater opportunity for larger projects from other communities.
- Funded projects will be listed/transparent on the County of Sonoma District 5 web pages
- Projects will be judged on greatest impact on the community and multi-community benefit is also encouraged.

#### Funding Priority Areas (with some examples)

- Tourism Impact Mitigation
  - Trash
  - Parking
  - Security
- Innovative Community enhancement projects
- Community Resilience
  - Communications infrastructure
  - Disaster preparedness
  - Economic development