

*The Springs Municipal Advisory Council represents the people of the Springs in Sonoma Valley as the voice of the community to elected representatives. SMAC is committed to engage with all community members in meaningful and inclusive ways to promote the health and wellbeing of the Springs.*

**Springs Municipal Advisory Council  
Minutes of the Virtual Meeting  
May 25, 2021**

**1. Call to Order 6:33**

Roll Call: Chair Iturri

Present: Willett, Goldman, Reyes, Lombard

Absent: none

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair announced availability of dual language English/Spanish interpretation.

Present: Jordi Vidales Interpreter

**Per Agenda: Interpreting available**

In zoom: to listen to the meeting in your preferred language go to the bottom right of your screen and click on the Interpretation logo. Select English or Spanish. You will automatically hear the language selected.

**2. Approval of Minutes of March 23/April 27/May 12, 2021**

Councilmember Willett moved to approve all Minutes. Councilmember Lombard Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Public Comment limited to 1.5 minutes**

(Limited to items not appearing on the agenda)

**Public comment during the virtual meeting:**

Members of the public will be recognized at the appropriate time for public comment. Those connected via Zoom must use the Raise Hand tool or dial \*9 if called in. When indicated, members of the public will be allowed to speak, asked to unmute and make their comment. Depending on the number of commenters, the Chair may decide to set a time limit.

**Karina welcomed callers**

**Nicholas Koerner**, represents Sonoma skateboard community, announced formation of organization - Valley of the Moon Park Riders Union. Working w/ county park system to create best skate park possible in Valley. From Sonoma, involved w/ building of original/current skate park. Group has much to contribute, moving forward w/ Maxwell general renovation project, can collaborate w/ City. Collaborating w/ Jordan at Sonoma Originals, skateboard shop in BHS. Look forward to creating community for skateboarders.

**Councilmember Goldman** received email from Springs' resident, read aloud –

from **Glyndon O'Brien**, re people parking in bike lane at Andy's Liquor, BHS. There are "No Parking" signs in English, but everyone parks there. Hopes this doesn't become an issue that would require a Sherriff parked nearby. Perhaps put up bilingual signs & increase fines for violation, might be sufficient. This is unsafe practice for bicyclists & pedestrians. Needs to be discouraged.

**Public Comment closed.**

**4. Chair Iturri: Update**

Clarified Agenda Process: Presenter, Council questions, Public Comment, response from Presenter, Comments from Councilmembers

**5. County Update: Supervisor Susan Gorin (no report)**

**6. Sonoma Fire**

**a. Chief Steve Akre:**

**Quarterly updates: Fire District and Fire Season**

**Personal background:** lived in Valley 50 years, parents both local teachers, started as volunteer at 18, continued to position of Fire Chief. Valley very important to him as Fire Chief & citizen & member of community. Was West Contra Costa County Battalion Chief, liaison w/ El Sobrante & Rodeo MACs, saw important role of MACs for fire service/fire safety/ preparation, & listening to community concerns.

Plans to attend Springs' MAC quarterly or more often, w/ updates. Tonight verbal, in future provide bilingual w/ power point info.

**Upcoming fire season:** already early start statewide and North Bay, plus under drought conditions. Ramping up early. Unwelcome conditions, previous fires significant that taxed everyone. Fire service becoming more successful due to lessons learned in Nuns & Tubbs fires, new measures implemented.

Sonoma Valley is a new Fire District. July 2020 consolidation of former Valley of Moon & Mayacamas Fire Depts. Partnering w/ other agencies to prepare communities & department for upcoming fire season.

**Vegetation Management Inspection** Program in coordination w/ County. In third year, was initial agency in pilot program. Targeting area called "The Maze" in Springs i.e. Middlefield, Mountain, Hillcrest, Park, *local fire responsibility areas*. Partners Cal Fire focusing on *State responsibility areas* i.e. the State watershed areas, hillsides, anything above flat ground. If you have a property part of this education/inspection program, should have received notice. Next week inspectors will be out.

**Annual Weed & Hazard Abatement Program**, in full swing. Inspector is out, vacant lots, parcels under complaint reports.

**For weed abatement complaint/overgrown vegetation, do online reporting at <https://svfra.org/> or contact 707 996 2102.**

**Evacuation planning & preparation.** Partnered w/ Sheriff's Dept. on May 1<sup>st</sup> as distribution spot for Evacuation Tags, at Fire Station 3, Agua Caliente Station. Also partnering with Dept. of Emergency Management for evacuation preparation.

**Evacuation Maps** updated throughout county, unincorporated & City. Available at <https://socoemergency.org/evacuation-maps> or <https://socoemergency.org/?s=emergency+maps>

Developed the evacuation zone maps w/ law enforcement, Cal Fire & emergency management partners.

**Four county Operational Area Coordinators for fire services: two in Sonoma Valley** - Chief Akre & Operations/Battalion Chief Andreis. Responsible to State Office of Emergency Services to coordinate county fire fighting resources & additional up-staffing. Also for neighboring counties. Stays up to date w/ weather forecasts, incidents, resource availability to provide mutual aid resources as quickly & efficiently as possible.

Local crews training in hard skills, refresher info, tactics, strategies to be ready for fires. Couple fires already in Springs, so far small. Hillsides fuel ready. Please mow early, before noon ok but earlier the better, when it's cooler, not windy.

**Fire response.** Sonoma Valley Fire District staffs 4 engines, 2 ambulances on daily basis. Add staff for red flag conditions in county and North Bay. Members strongly committed. 60 full time employees, over 40 volunteer firefighters. Challenging to sustain active volunteers. During Wallbridge & Glass fires, contributed 9 additional Engine Companies to assist. This is double the daily amount. Crews went to Glass Fire, Skyhawk, Los Alamos Rd. & kept the fires under control. Acknowledged all the fire service participants.

**Covid,** 2020 challenging for all, including Emergency Service providers. Successful w/ proactive measures. Similar success w/ efforts to vaccinate community. Took lead in vaccinating first responders, law enforcement, 4,500 community members. Partnered w/ Community Health Center, Sonoma Valley Hospital. This vaccination partnering effort continuing at Health Center, La Luz, working w/ bilingual members.

In 2020 there were 6 vacancies in District, challenge to fill positions. Hired 6 part time members conditionally, as firefighter/EMT, sponsored them through para-medical school. 3 of 6 are Latino/bilingual, passed initial final exams, will start field internships to continue.

**Thanked the Sonoma Springs Community Hall staff for efforts on Gateway Project,** at Fire Station 3, Agua Caliente Station, for landscaping improvements.

Chair Iturri expressed appreciation for all his work, in particular inclusion of community diversity.

Chief Akre, bilingual skills highly valuable for strong community connection.

### **Chair called for Council Questions**

Councilmember Willett, met w/ Roberta MacIntyre of Fire Safe Sonoma re what model to use in future, i.e. Fire Wise community vs Fire Safe community to expedite, using Marin model. Expressed concern re uncontrolled campfires at creek. Solutions? Provide safer sites?

Chief Akre, actively working w/ groups that want to form fire safe or wise communities. Active in county process updating Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Supportive of these important efforts. Happy to be resource to prepare community for wildfires. Re Creek, it is highest call volume - Maxwell Park/creek. Ongoing issue, working w/ Sheriff's Dept. & County Public Works. Recognized this is also a bigger societal issue.

**Councilmember Lombard**, does grass cleanup include reporting debris piles? Chief Akre, yes, report debris piles. Will send out inspector to evaluate level of fire hazard. Is it a nuisance or worse?

**Councilmember Goldman**, lives on Park, head of Agua Caliente canyon. Cal Fire used to come to his house for inspection for \$110. Appreciated their help on fire safety. His property goes on incline up the hill, is he part of Cal Fire? Chief Akre, relationship w/ Cal Fire is multilayered. **Everyone is part of Sonoma Valley Fire District.** Part of State Resources Code designates what is state responsibility area vs local. SVF District being proactive, on heels of 2017. County & local Fire Districts decided to do more on local level, thus County Ord 13, Defensible Space & Vegetation Management updated, new program started. 2 years in pilot, overlapped w/ Cal Fire, not as successful or efficient. In 2020 local Districts did local inspections, Cal Fire covered State responsibility areas, worked better, continuing this approach. If Councilmember Goldman hasn't received a county notice, his property not part of that area for a scheduled inspection. **If anyone wants vegetation management inspection on property, contact them, no limit, they can schedule inspection, do over 300 a year. Takes much capacity but please contact. 707-996 2102.**

Councilmember Goldman, dodged a bullet in 2017, Agua Caliente canyon vulnerable. What else can be done proactively besides vegetation management? In 2017, came in w/ a Cat on Park Ave, did a firebreak, might have saved Sonoma. Chief Akre, complicated topic. Already ahead of 2017 w/ proactive measures. Acknowledged importance, but firebreaks require roadside clearances, individual property owners' permission to go even 10' on land. Hard to gain consensus among property owners just for roadside clearance. So doing a big firebreak through several properties is challenging. Also environmental concerns. Partnered w/ agencies like Ecology Center, Land Trust, Audubon for controlled & prescribed burns. This is where Fire Safe Councils & Fire Wise in neighborhoods to get community educated are valuable. Gain power that way. E.g. Mayacamas Fire Safe Council, have done roadside clearances, shaded fuel breaks, fuel reduction.

Councilmember Goldman, re Evacuation Tags, are they available at Station in Agua Caliente? Chief Akre, will check w/ Sheriff's Dept. get info to Karina.

Councilmember Goldman, re Evacuation Maps, can they be mailed out, delivered, where available? Get info to every household, many people miss out, don't read local paper. Oakmont residents endangered in last fire due to traffic. Not many routes out of Valley. Chief Akre, agreed, have learned from recent fires, improved since 2017, implemented measures, there were no fatalities in more recent fires. **Evacuation Maps are finalized.** Will forward info to Karina.

**Councilmember Reyes** thanked Chief Akre & Fire District for leadership, plus collaboration on vaccination clinics w/ Health Center & Sonoma Valley Health Partners. Gave community a welcoming opportunity to get to know Fire Dept.

Re: COPE, will it be brought back? Health Center doing neighborhood meetings w/ Map your Neighborhood (MYN), Emergency Prep event tomorrow [May 26] in collaboration w/ many organizations - Halter Project, Sheriff, Pets Lifeline. Momentum happening w/ community & Fire Dept. Chief Akre, re SCOPE, or COPE, still active but during Covid not able to connect as much as previous years. Contact is Captain Joe Morrison, have they been told

about tomorrow's event? Councilmember Reyes, yes. Told that the decision will be made at end of May whether firefighters can do outreach again. There's also another Pop Up event planned. Chief Akre, in past offered SCOPE classes in Spanish & English. Will return to that when things open up.

**Chair Iturri called for Public Comment**

Karina welcomed callers.

**Amy Pearl**, expressed gratitude to Fire District for all they do. Heard there is a low vaccination rate in fire departments. Is that true?

Chief Akre, no, in Sonoma have over 90% vaccinated in career & volunteer staff. Couple months ago, over 90%, shows dedication to community. We live here. Acknowledged the fire service leadership including medical director at Sonoma Valley Hospital to educate & inform on vaccination.

**Zaira B-Q**, no comment.

**Fred Allebach**, why didn't Shell Vista Fire join district?

Chief Akre, best answered by Shell Vista Board of Directors policy makers. Perhaps they weren't quite ready to take the step. Consolidation talks/opportunities are a big process & require change. Son Val Fire District began 1992 - 2002 formalized as a JPA. Took 20 years to get to consolidation, still not quite there w/ city. Doors open to neighbors, Kenwood/north, Shell Vista/south. Dealt w/ these consolidation processes in other districts. Hallmark of success is being willing and interested to provide better community services.

**Tom Conlon**, acknowledged MAC & Chief Akre. Re evacuation Hwy 12, new proposed Oakmont community, people met w/ PGE re work along Hwy 12 during fire season which could complicate fire evacuation process. How is Hwy 12 evacuation planning progressing? Chief Akre, is an incremental process. Identify evacuation zones, get consensus w/ partners in law enforcement & Cal Fire, then identify evacuation routes. After 2017, & Glass Fire he saw Hwy 12 was a problematic choke point. Ongoing issues being addressed. Not easy process since Hwy 12 a State highway, involves various entities to get consensus & then implement strategies/measures. Involves Cal Trans, CHP, Sheriff's Dept., Fire District, Cal Fire, County Public Works & City of Sonoma. Many players. Work in progress.

**Davan/Anna Miller**, re problems with PGE line management. Update? Chief Akre, does not have up to date situation status for that. Need to talk to PGE reps/community liaisons; invite to MAC. His experience PGE have done work hardening lines, improve PSPS & red flag warnings, done work on infrastructure to be able to cut sections rather than wide spread shut offs. Chair Iturri noted this recommendation.

**Chair Iturri called for Council Comments**

**Councilmember Lombard**, re Evacuation Zone Map in paper, no info on evacuation. Is there more information forthcoming? Chief Akre, both Dept. of Emergency Mgmt. & Sheriff have public info. High priority to get it out to public.

- 7. **Sonoma Water** (at 1:05:21 you tube video)
  - a. **Jay Jasperse, Chief Engineer/Groundwater Manager on behalf of Brad Sherwood Re: Drought**

This is a two year serious drought, ongoing. 2020/2021 rivaling 1977 drought of record. An unusual emergency that builds over time, can leave quickly w/ one storm, but unknown how long it will last. Water managers in community must plan & manage water supplies.

### Power Point Presentation



Drought.pdf

Use rainfall to mark drought, e.g. 1977 drought same low level of precipitation, but it's warmer now w/ climate change & increased heat, same rainfall but greater impact. Will focus on Sonoma Water which is primarily surface water supply, but other source is groundwater, also important as people lean more on groundwater when surface water is diminished. Aquifers need to be kept healthy.

- Special Sonoma Water District created in 1949, was Sonoma County Water Agency
- Sonoma County Board of Supervisors serve as Sonoma Water Board of Directors
- Wholesale water supply to 8 retail customers; 600,000 residents Sonoma/Marin Counties; manage Russian River reservoirs, mostly urban areas; Valley of Moon Water
- Flood control
- Manage eight wastewater collection treatment plants including Sonoma Valley Sanitation District
- Renewable energy enterprise, Hydropower/Carbon Free Water

**Russian River as a water source:** map in PP. Primary source, co-manage two reservoirs w/ Army Corp of Engineers - Lake Mendocino/Ukiah & Lake Sonoma/Healdsburg Sonoma Water (SW) manages during drier seasons; Army Corp Engineers (ACE) manage for flood control

Lake Mendocino is 1/3 size of Lake Sonoma. Difficult to manage reliable water supplies, in upper Russian River i.e. Healdsburg to Ukiah. Vulnerable to drought impact. Severe conditions for upcoming summer & fall.

Lake Sonoma, most of Son Valley water from here. A more resilient water supply, less drought impact.

PP photographs Lake Mendocino, at previous & current extreme low level. Governor Newsom declared emergency for Sonoma & Mendocino Counties & CA & statewide drought.

PP photographs Lake Sonoma, extreme low level

[Sonomawater.org](http://Sonomawater.org) website - whole page on drought management

PP charts: rainfall charts, Lakes' storage lowest ever for this time of year

Forecast potential. Working to minimize use by communities & Ag could be 75% reduction needed to prevent reservoir from drying up.

Like to keep 20,000 acre feet minimum to carry over, extreme challenge to do that now.

PP chart: Lake Sonoma storage at record low storage. Requesting lower releases in Russian River. Enough for this year, but must plan ahead

PP chart: significant droughts led to significant responses in policy/actions:

1976/77 drought = Warm Springs Dam built, Lake Sonoma

2007/2009 drought = state wide changes in water code for water conservation plans  
2013/2014 drought = statewide programs to manage critical groundwater SGMA, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and Agency to manage critical groundwater basins.

2020/2021 drought = unknown new policies/actions but in progress

- 20% water savings requested by Son County BoS, Sonoma Water committed to reducing Russian River diversions/pumping by 20% starting in June. Each local partner also asked to reduce 20%, save on retail side as well

**Recommendations:**

1. **Reduce outdoor irrigation, eliminate unnecessary watering**
2. **Find & fix leaks, no car washing**
3. **Reduce shower time by 2 minutes**

For more info: [www.sonomawater.org](http://www.sonomawater.org)

For water savings tips: [SavingWaterPartnership.org](http://SavingWaterPartnership.org) - good info for water use efficiency  
Encouraged MAC to spread the word, need to work together to have water use efficiency, surface & groundwater

**Chair Iturri called for Council Questions**

**Councilmember Lombard**, re trending but insufficient advice to put in water-saving plants during drought. Need to better educate community on water saving all the time.

**Councilmember Willett**, appreciated Jay's presentation. Dire situation, will focus on 20% reduction goal.

**Councilmember Goldman**, will there be penalties for excessive water use? What else being suggested for near future? Jay, re enforcement policies, each water purveyor has six stages of evaluation, can escalate w/ seriousness. Now voluntary 20%, then mandatory 20%, each plan can differ. Basics: no car washing, use broom not hose, etc. Disregard can escalate to enforcement. Lake Sonoma, ok this year but concerned for next year; upper Russian River will be only health & safety needs, no outdoor use. Re groundwater: Sustainable Groundwater Management Act programs for locals e.g. cash for grass, natural landscaping, rebates, etc. funded by part of water bill for Conservation Program, mainly focused on urban areas. Groundwater mainly for rural residential, no funding for conservation program; area of great need. Want to launch water conservation for rural residential groundwater users. Broadly/long term re conservation for future droughts - looking at more recycled water use to offset potable water, recharge of storm water into groundwater basin, winter time Russian River into wells to fill up aquifers. There is state funding available to use groundwater strategically. New program in forecasting, reservoir management, how to increase water supply storage w/ forecasting, involves ACE.

**Chair Iturri called for Public Comment**

**Karina welcomed callers**

**Tom Conlon**, re Climate Action 2020 Report from 2016, Senate Bill SBX77 2009 a conservation Bill, goal set at state level was a 20% reduction from 2005 levels by 2020. How are County & Valley tracking that goal?

**Fred Allebach**, re urban water management plans/droughts & current housing elements & RINO process. Droughts are planned for, so current drought isn't end of all development in county, build a wall around Russian River system. Still have to conserve. County plans & housing

elements continue.

**Hannah Perot**, asked for clarification on requesting lower water releases; from her layman's mind, why release any?

**Jay responded to questions:**

**Re SBX77-2009**, referred to chart in PP, resulted in statewide key action - water conservation programs w/ hard requirements. Re 20% reduction 2005 to 2020. All water contractors monitor it on monthly basis, all exceeded that 20%. E.g. 2005/2006 delivered 65,000 acre feet a year, recent years in low/mid 40,000. Result of that water conservation program, even w/ population growth. Per capita water consumption going down, but leveled off in pandemic. Very important law/policy.

**Re land use/water topic.** Fred is Chair of Sonoma Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Re Urban Water Management Plan - water agency does Plan every 5 years, theirs just approved by Board. Looks ahead for 25 years, each agency required if selling water to more than 3,000 people. Plan looks out to year 2045, looks at projected future water demands & supplies, do they balance? Not just looking at average year, but most critical dry year – 1977. Plus five driest years on record - 1908-2019, 1980, '87-'91. Then do tests for 3 different conditions. This is basics of Urban Water Management Plan. Water shortage contingency plan part of it. We will feel a reduction, which is ok, but must use a methodical system of analysis. See Reports on website. [www.sonomawater.org](http://www.sonomawater.org) and [SavingWaterPartnership.org](http://SavingWaterPartnership.org) Reports all due to State at end of June. Used for water supply planning. Sonoma showing sufficient water but this is a severe drought so conservation needed.

**Re water releases from reservoirs.** Reference was to his water agency's releases. Two layers in reservoir, top one for flood control by Army Corp Engineers. Sonoma Water releases when in lower water supply pool/layer. E.g. Ukiah, Lake Mendocino, water flows down to Dry Creek, stored in Lake Sonoma. Have to release from reservoir for all downstream users, plus maintain minimum instream flows regulated by CA State to support eco systems/habitat. Must be very careful, only one knob to turn 60 miles away, has 3-5 days to flow down, have to figure out where all the users are, how much is left over to maintain minimum instream flow. During drought, get State permission to reduce instream flow, release less, keep more in reservoir. That permission goes for 180 days, then must go back. Just went back last week for new permission. At lowest level for upper Russian River now.

**Chair called for Council Comments**

**Councilmember Lombard**, saw letters recently in PD re dredging Lake Mendocino, getting silt out to store more water. Is that a wise undertaking from water agency perspective?

Jay, this comes up every drought year, makes sense conceptually. Not done by Sonoma Water, would be ACE. Not cost feasible. Immense undertaking, soil has to be dumped, would be hundreds of millions of dollars.

**8. Transportation & Public Works, Sonoma County** (at 1:44:56 on you tube video)

**Johannes Hoevertsz & Janice Thompson**

Johannes, brief general update: Significant day at Board, \$60 million allocated for improvements to infrastructure, roads, county wide, next 3-4 years.

- i. **Road Maintenance: difference in noticing** between construction for road construction & maintenance projects.



- a. **Road construction** projects done by consultant contractor, ample time ahead to advertise & prepare community, typically big paving jobs, bridge construction anything that significantly disrupts traffic or neighbors.
  - b. **Road maintenance** puts out an email every Monday morning w/ updates on expected work for week. No advance notices. Sometimes a crew becomes unexpectedly available to do pot-hole patches. No advance notice.
- ii. **Vegetation Management**, can only work within road right-of-way, standard is 4' from pavement, 15' high. Collaborating w/ various groups for grants, notices of extension, funding, traffic control, environmental documentation, traffic control, etc. Millions of dollars committed to these in-kind grants. Also a popular roadside cleanup program before mowing.
- iii. **Boyes Blvd Bridge, hoping to open before July 4<sup>th</sup>.**

#### **Ways of reporting road or other repairs**

There are 1,338 miles of county roads, always problems e.g. drainage, fallen trees, etc. Have a robust system to keep track of all service requests, but if unaware or unreported they cannot help. Use the app “**SoCo Report It**”. Submit a picture to report, or call Road Maintenance Yard. 707-565-5100. Can also call Supervisor’s Office.

[<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Services/SoCo-Report-It/About-SoCo-Report-It/> SoCo Report It is a multi-platform solution providing County of Sonoma residents, businesses and visitors access to a set of local government-provided services.]

Chair Iturri commented she successfully used **SoCo Report It** app. Pot hole was fixed in 48 hours. Question re who is responsible on the Highways e.g. 116 or 12, for high roadside vegetation between road & property? Johannes, those are State roads, Cal Trans responsibility. In Sonoma County, right of way can be 60’ but road is only 32’. Cal Trans only mows 6’-8’ from edge of pavement on freeways. Difficult & cost prohibitive to mow all right-of-way.

#### **Chair Iturri called for Council Comments**

Councilmember Goldman, re \$60 million – is it allocated for a time period?

Johannes, Pavement Preservation Program, 2022-23 program; \$20million of \$60 for Tier 2 Projects, generational projects, e.g. transportation, ingress/egress, retaining walls, feasibility studies for bridges, striping bike lanes & safety, pull outs on narrow roads. Councilmember Goldman, re vegetation. Walks along Hwy 12 on eastern side, noticed erosion on hills falling over onto sidewalks from adjoining properties. Who is responsible for maintenance? How to report? Johannes, complex topic. According to Street/Hwy Code, maintenance of sidewalks is responsibility of property owner. Agency may build sidewalk, property owner must maintain. If not done, agency sends a “notice to repair” for period of ten days, then 2<sup>nd</sup> notice later, then agency will do the work, & place a lien on property. Unpopular process. Includes situations such as sidewalk uprooted by trees, etc. Re erosion from failing ground, recommended taking pictures, send notice to **SoCo Report It** app. Could also contact Public Works.

**Chair Iturri called for Public Comment**

**Karina welcomed callers**

**Fred Allebach**, good public policy tour de force covering fire, water, transportation, public works. Fred is lone NIMBY out by Sonoma Best, involved w/ parking situation, unincorporated county.

**Chair Iturri called for Council Comments**

Johannes, will notify MAC re ribbon cutting ceremony for Boyes Blvd Bridge.

**9. Break-10 minutes**

**Karina introduced a second interpreter to assist.**

**10. Caltrans Update**

a. **Jeff Weiss**-Construction Project in the Springs

New project in City of Sonoma, will include part of Springs. \$7million to pave Route 12, Napa Rd & Leveroni, up Broadway, left West Napa, in Springs to Vallejo Ave & Boyes Blvd.

Sidewalks, 25 ADA compliant curb ramps, two pedestrian overcrossing signals on W. Napa St.

**Re sidewalk extension north of Verano - not included in project.** He submitted request to project manager to add extension to project. In review. Has been identified. Challenge is the narrowness of Agua Caliente Bridge.

**Power Point:**

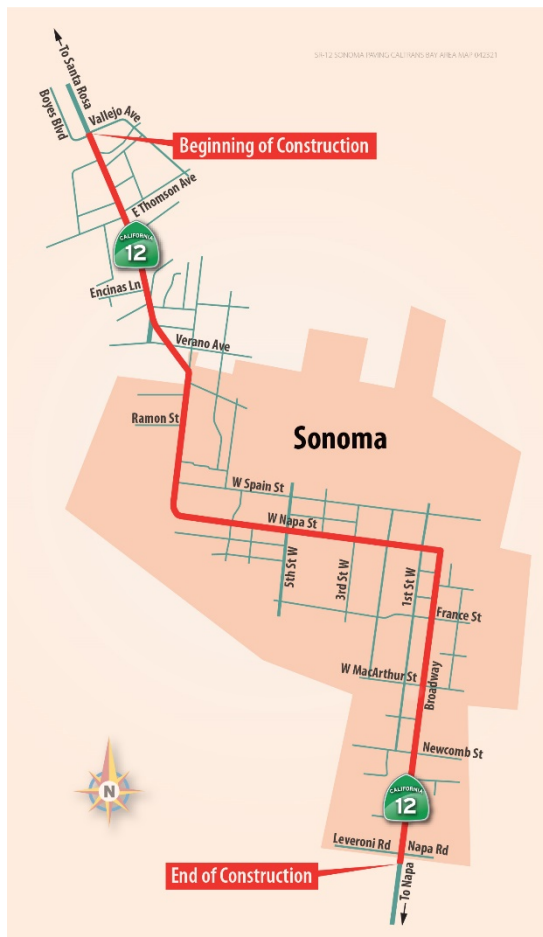
**Date:** May 25, 2021

**District:** 4 - Oakland

**Contact:** Jeff Weiss

[jeffrey.weiss@dot.ca.gov](mailto:jeffrey.weiss@dot.ca.gov)

**Phone:** (510) 715-8770



**Caltrans Begins Paving and Sidewalk Upgrade Project In City of Sonoma**

*Work includes paving, upgrading curb ramps, and adding pedestrian beacons*

**SONOMA** – Caltrans has begun a roadway and sidewalk upgrade project on a 3.8-mile stretch of State Route 12 through the City of Sonoma, between Leveroni Road and Boyes Boulevard.

Highway 12 is also known as Broadway and W. Napa Street as it travels through the City of Sonoma.

Bay Cities Paving and Grading of Concord, Calif. is the contractor on the \$7 million project that includes paving, modifying traffic signals and streetlights, installing curb ramps and pedestrian beacons.

**To reduce impacts and obstructions to traffic and pedestrians, Caltrans will perform most work during the evening and at night between the hours of 6:00 PM and 7:00 AM.**

Caltrans will grind and repave the 3.8-mile stretch of roadway as one of the last orders of work, probably starting in late July 2021. The agency hopes to complete paving by October 31, 2021, the end of paving season in most parts of the North Bay. If not, Caltrans will return in the warmer spring months of 2022 and complete the work.

As part of the project, Caltrans will install two overhead pedestrian beacons on W. Napa Street: one at Third Street, and another located mid-block between Riverside Drive and 7th Street.

To bring the sidewalks into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), Caltrans will replace 25 curb ramps with new ADA-approved ramps.

Work began last week with the installation of temporary fences and construction signs. This week Caltrans will locate underground utilities and replace traffic signals.

For more information and project updates go to: <https://bit.ly/2RZUiCZ>

*For 24/7 traffic updates, go to 511.org: <https://twitter.com/511SF> Bay You can also get real-time information on all State Highways in California on our Caltrans Quick Map: <http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov/> Please be #WorkZoneAlert*

*Or follow Caltrans on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/CaltransD4>*

#### **Chair Iturri, what is project timeline?**

Jeff, it has begun. Traffic advisory notice sent out today [5/26]. Installing environmental fences near ditches, construction signs, locating underground utilities. In mid-June will be changing out signal lights, pedestrian over-crossing lights. Paving will be last, begin mid/late July & finished by end of October, or will have to wait till spring, since rubberized asphalt doesn't bind in low temperatures.

#### **Chair Iturri called for Council Questions**

Councilmember Lombard, Re drain covers, perhaps installed prematurely. They are coming off, ending up in street.

Councilmember Willett, related to PGE project along Hwy 12? Do the projects overlap? Jeff, yes, they need to finish first. Not related though. There is project to replace two more bridges, Hooker Creek, & Sonoma Creek on Hwy 12, starting in 18 months. PGE may be relocating utilities relating to this.

Councilmember Willett, PGE staged on Agua Caliente Rd redoing gas supplies, from Agua

Caliente to Cal Trans project on Boyes or further. Cal Trans paving later, unfortunate to rip up new work, hopes it's being coordinated.

**Karina clarified that PGE work starts at Fetters goes to Waterman Ave. Cal Trans work ends at Vallejo Ave; there is a good gap.**

Councilmember Willett, re decade's long ongoing problem w/ Donald Street gap. Sidewalks, lights installed but gap remains. Related to unfortunate incident at intersection nearby. Is a gap in pedestrian fabric, important part that needs to be fixed. Understands challenges w/ creek, mobilehome, other issues.

**Karina clarified that PGE project will go down as far south as Central Ave, north of Cal Trans.**

Councilmember Goldman, re the Donald Street Gap, eyesore/problem for years. Trusts Cal Trans can find a solution. How to be a community w/ State Hwy in middle? Hopes future can be more pedestrian & bike friendly. Understands Cal Trans job to make sure traffic moves efficiently down state highway. Suggested motorists use Arnold Drive more than Sonoma Hwy, faster. Suggested crosswalks on Hwy 12 have flashing lights in sidewalks to help pedestrian safety. Perhaps drivers may become more frustrated & take an alternate route. Fifth St West has lights at bike crossing, very effective.

**Chair Iturri called for Council Questions**

Jeff, link to news release re future of Hwy 37.

**Karina clarified there is no public access to Chat during meetings. Please email info to her.**

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Information for Highway 37 AGENDA: SR 37 Planning and Environmental Linkages Study Virtual Meeting Agenda  
5/26/2021 5:30pm-7:30pm

- Public Introduction to the SR 37 PEL Study
- Background on the SR 37 Corridor
- Draft Purpose Statement and Goals
- Alternatives Development and Public Input on Conceptual Alignments
- Questions and Answers with our Agency Panel
- Next Steps in the PEL Study and Closing

**Via EMAIL Tue 5/25/2021 3:30 PM**

Council members,

Meeting tomorrow night to discuss the SR 37 Planning and Environmental Linkages study Caltrans is conducting. The PEL study will allow Caltrans to speed up the planning process, so we can make improvements to the SR 37 corridor more quickly. You can read more about the PEL study here :

[https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/district-4/documents/37-corridor-projects/sr-37\\_swg\\_11\\_16\\_20\\_pdf\\_notes-2020-12-16.pdf](https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/district-4/documents/37-corridor-projects/sr-37_swg_11_16_20_pdf_notes-2020-12-16.pdf)

Meeting details are below:

- DATE: Wednesday, May 26, 2021
- TIME: 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

- VIRTUAL LOCATION:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84603280940?pwd=OWJaUXU1cUQwM0JISUNoanZncm0vdz09>
- WEBSITE: [www.SR37CorridorProjects.com](http://www.SR37CorridorProjects.com)

We would love to get feedback from the public at the meeting, so please share the flyer with people who you think might be interested. Let me know if you or the Supervisor plan to attend. We would like to acknowledge you during the meeting.

Thanks, Henry  
Henry Symons  
Legislative Liaison  
Caltrans Bay Area  
(510) 381-9471



CT D4 Traffic  
Advisory Paving and !

### Chair Iturri called for Public Comment

**Tom Conlon**, lives 3 blocks from Donald Street Gap, is a significant area of concern. Serves on Transportation Agency Citizen Advisory Committee. Is an active bicycle rider, participated in recent community memorial critical mass bike ride. Rode a big loop, stopped at places where bike riders have been killed: Agua Caliente, Arnold Drive, Hwy 12. Today saw a juvenile riding bicycle from El Verano/ Hwy 12 intersection going north riding on the sidewalk, just a dirt lane. This is an active, dangerous zone. Heard rumor one mobilehome near Hwy 12 needs to be removed, owner relocated & compensated, property confiscated. Suggested looking into this to fast track for funding recently available to Transportation Agency. Acknowledged good work by Cal Trans & MAC.

**Hannah Perot**, re Hwy12/Verano. Suggested using extra bright green paint for striping to improve visuals. Seen bike lanes in other cities clearly demarcated in bright green. Jeff, still looking at that intersection for improvements. Johannes restriped it.

**Dana Bravo**, re Verano intersection. Will there be any extra signage for drivers turning left onto Hwy 12, both directions? Jeff, unknown. All under consideration. Some felt there was too much signage, too busy. Can update in future. Will have to talk to traffic engineers. Dana, suggested turn lane directionals. Jeff, yes, this has been discussed.

**Fred Allebach**, re redirecting traffic from Hwy 12 to Arnold drive. How to analyze degree of inconvenience? Unsure how motorists would respond. What is process to do this, who would be in charge? Permission from city & county? Jeff, difficult because when planning traffic changes, if close one route then have to go to another. Becomes an exchange of benefits. Impact on Arnold Drive? Would take substantial environmental study of whole system re changes to traffic patterns. A big list to move State Highway traffic onto a city or county street. Perhaps a similar situation was during SF earthquake when the freeways were damaged & demolished. Councilmember Willett, possible when the highway is a business route. Jeff, yes, still very difficult to do. Councilmember Lombard, highway goes through county road i.e. through Boyes Springs. More people in Springs & along Hwy 12 in BHS than on Arnold Drive.

**Jim McFadden**, lives in Boyes Springs, what time Route 37 meeting? Jeff, 5:30pm, go to Sonoma County Transportation Authority website, Resilient SR37. Virtual meeting.

**Tom Conlon**, short link to meeting - Resilient 37.org. Links in Chat still active.

### **Chair Iturri called for Council Comments**

Councilmember Goldman, re resolution of making Hwy 12 into a “business route/through route.” Unsure how to begin process. Arnold Drive has controlled signals, few businesses, one section at Grove, rarely see pedestrians. Nicer than driving through Springs. Suggested Jeff explore this option, start a conversation. Community could write letters. Would improve commute for people from Santa Rosa. Would encourage mixed use in Springs.

Councilmember Lombard commented there is a push for more housing to be developed in Springs, along Hwy corridor, so local traffic will increase. Projects in the works. Not case on Arnold Drive. Re Business/Through Route, commuters from Santa Rosa going to Vallejo.

### **11. Springs Projects Update (at 2:47:12 on you tube video)**

#### **Daniel Crowley: Mattson Projects Manager, Construction & Entitlement**

Thanked Karina for invite, noted he can return to MAC due to pending important Springs’ projects that benefit from public input. Will provide updates.

Screen shared google maps, renderings (See Addendum for pdf)

Three sites to review.

Properties have significant historical value, important to provide info & get public comment.

Also will present on a 4<sup>th</sup> new project.

- i. **Lanning Project**, under County review for building permits. Mixed use Container Project, containers already built in San Leandro, ready to ship following completion of county permits. Working through significant fire code & building dept. issues. Containers may be dropped on site in summer. Difficult year for construction for many reasons but this project moving forward.
- ii. **Boyes Food Center**, property in disrepair. November BoS entitled construction permits for mixed use building that fronts highway, plus 8 townhomes along Arroyo Road & Calle del Monte. Will be a long process, in phases w/ a construction schedule. Don’t want to disrupt current tenants/residents. Two townhomes will displace two families/tenants, will be moved at same market rate back in when Phase 1 completes. Phase 2 will require demo of two existing residences. Working to keep displacement at a low level. Slides of renderings of townhomes. Three story mixed use building on Sonoma Hwy, ground floor retail & food service. Top 2 levels apartments/residential. 37 new units instead of 7/8, will contribute to housing effort in BHS by densifying, offering affordable units. All will be moved back in at current rate or better. Also extensive restoration of Boyes Food Center back to 1930/40’s condition, while modernizing to current codes & safety, maintain historic value to residents & tourists for soon-to-be downtown BHS.
- iii. **22 Boyes, aka Post Office Building/Former Train Depot**, recently purchased

property. Hot topic for community & developers. There is no parking on site, building just the parcel. All surrounding parking county owned. Goal to activate building to historic & economic potential w/ community input. Priorities - pedestrian upgrades, activate the whole downtown core. Will be exploring through soil testing, etc. for possibilities. Currently building needs much repair.

- iv. **Plaza**, goal to create a public space, in collaboration w/ county & community. Welcomes community input.

Contact info: Project Manager, [dcrowley@lefma.com](mailto:dcrowley@lefma.com) , PO Box 5490, Vacaville, CA 95696

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KS Mattson Partners, LP

### **Chair Iturri called for Council Questions**

Councilmember Lombard, questioned status of parking at 22 Boyes. Unclear who will have jurisdiction. Goal of a community Plaza has been in works for years. Daniel, correct, parking area/parcel is not Mattson's, need county input to proceed. But their [Post Office] property has parking issues so hope to collaborate w/ county & community on parking in exchange for development of a Plaza public space. Councilmember Lombard, re parking at Boyes Food Center - adequate for residents, but what about for business customers? Daniel, yes, was addressed in review for uses. If ground floor retail units became assembly spaces there would be more environmental reports on parking issue. As proposed for retail, have required parking, but could be an issue. There is one restaurant, one food service vendor, all the proposed parking would allow.

Councilmember Goldman, met w/ Ken, Dan at request of Supervisor Susan Gorin. At Economic Development presentation, she said she is committed to a plaza. Feels Ken & Dan are too. Ideas have been exchanged. Feels Plaza will not only happen but be better than wildest dreams. Daniel, it's in everyone's interest to have a Plaza public space, integral to a community's identity & well-being. Would help out all adjacent properties, tremendous potential. They are committed to it. As well as the other current projects.

Councilmember Willett, question re Boyes Food Center project, who is doing schematic/construction project drawings? Daniel, former architects have excused themselves from project creating a delay; new architect out of Oakland. Councilmember Willett, who is civil engineer for Lanning Project? Daniel, Adobe. Also for the Boyes Food Center project.

Chair Iturri, there are different visions for the proposed Plaza. She sees Plaza as family & community place for BHS. Recognizes business will be generated by Mattson's developments. Concerned that there will there be an opportunity for visioning to sustain family & community interests, rather than driven by businesses? Daniel, yes, they agree, the businesses will include employees who live in area, as it is a hospitality industry area, their projects will be adding to housing stock. Hope to activate & create a community identity. The already vibrant BHS community is lacking a public space. There will be ample room for public comment. Realizes the parking issue is significant, must be developed in conjunction w/ the community.

**Chair Iturri called for Public Comment**

**Tom Conlon**, his ancestors in Boyes Hot Springs when Train Depot was in operation and the Plaza was an open space & major community destination point. Unfortunately turned into car storage when Mission Inn became monolithic property in '60s. Excited about this & looks forward to the private investment & their vision, with promises to work w/ community. Feels it is first & most significant redevelopment vision for Springs since his grandfather said Jackie Gleason was investing in Mission Inn. Agrees it is essential to do visioning w/ community for best outcome. Impressed w/ progress so far. Re parking concerns – Planning Commission & SVCAC meetings, one of major reviews of Boyes Center was that it was probably over-parked, this from Planning & his perspective on greenhouse gas emissions. Cannot continue to design cities around private automobiles, focus on getting people out of their cars. Glad vision includes a walkable plaza. Enthusiastic as project plans unfold. Daniel, acknowledged plaza vision was already there, ultimately a restorative effort, they will do their best.

**Fred Allebach**, lives in unincorporated Valley near earlier Mattson project, *Sonoma's Best*, at 8<sup>th</sup> St East. Original planning was for on-site parking. Now years later intersection 8<sup>th</sup> St E/Napa St. always busy, a safety hazard from his POV. Feels like a NIMBY, which is commonplace. Word of warning from his experience, Boyes Food Mart originally advertised as being *like Sonoma's Best* which attracted allot of traffic. Questions re BFM residencies - how many are Deed Restricted Units, how many naturally occurring affordable units, what is income range for potential renters, & what are guarantees rent will be 30% of their annual income? Daniel, will be able to provide exact details in future. One of the ways they proceeded w/o Deed Restrictions was due to use of Phasing aspect. All current residencies on site will be offered residencies at same rate as current, which will be below modern rates.

**Chair Iturri called for Council Comments.**

**Councilmember Goldman**, appreciated clarification from Daniel on all projects. Hopes for wider community participation in future to have a joint venture conversation.

**12. Ad hoc Updates and Reconfiguration**

**a. Dana Bravo: Map Your Neighborhood**

Fire season is here, more neighbor connections/trainings happening. Successful in-person meetings. Evacuation tag giveaway done. Wednesday collaboration at Community Health Center for mini emergency prep meeting. Joining Food for All & Housing Authority in June. El Verano, many in-person opportunities for outreach.

**b. Fire Safe Council, Ray Willett**

Proposed discussion on Fire Safe Council vs Fire Wise Community at June MAC meeting. Spoke w/ Roberta from Sonoma Fire Safe Council, including Fire Chief, former MAC councilmember Wheatley, Lucas from Napa Fire Safe Council. The Fire Wise Community ties in better w/ grassroots efforts, would be more streamlined than incorporating a Fire Safe Council. Roberta has presentation, but unavailable on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Ray to schedule for June.



**c. The Plaza-Community Outreach, Avram Goldman**

In past years Plaza project has been discouraging, but he became hopeful when he heard about Mattson's projects at Economic Development meeting & in SIT. Supervisor Susan Gorin encouraged a meeting w/ Ken & Dan. Avram learned they were informed of Sonoma Community Alliance's previous work on Plaza. Currently in planning stage, will be further clarification. Imagines a mini Sonoma Plaza that will serve the entire community. Sees potential for larger vision.

**d. Chair Iturri suggested a new Ad Hoc for Arts Projects in Springs**

Idea introduced, interest expressed, recognized limited personnel available.

Discussion

Councilmember Goldman, Art Escape already in place; need a unified vision. Chair Iturri, ideas e.g. PGE boxes, county signs along corridor, etc. Could include Art Escape, MAC, community. Chair Iturri called for motion to create Ad Hoc. **Councilmember Lombard made a motion to create an Art in the Springs Ad Hoc**, w/ Maite head & Avram. Councilmember Willett seconded. **Vote - all in favor.**

**e. Chair Iturri reported on progress of shelter project for emergency preparation.**

Approval for equipment, supplies, cots, office items, MREs (meals ready to eat) to be stored in Springs in a Conex container. Being accomplished through Catholic Charities, County, in collaboration w/ School District.

**13. Community Event Announcements**

**Councilmember Reyes**, Vets Hall vaccine clinic closing this Friday [5/28]. 1:30-5pm, accepting walk ins. Also clinic at La Luz, Tue & Thurs. 3-7pm, & Sundays 12-3pm. Second dose clinic at El Verano School June 12<sup>th</sup>. Neighborhood pop up w/ vaccine clinic, Tuesday, June 15<sup>th</sup> Fiesta Plaza, 5-7pm in collaboration w/ MAC, behind the cinema. More details & flyer soon. Welcomes suggestions for more pop up vaccine clinics, considering sites in City of Sonoma w/ Burbank Housing. Event: Evacuation packs, first responders, Pets Lifeline, Halter Project for big animals, Map Your Neighborhood.

**Chair Iturri**, Community Forum at El Verano, June 16<sup>th</sup>, in-person, outdoor meeting to evaluate current community concerns. Hosted by El Verano, Food for All, MYN & Sonoma Valley Housing Group.

**Councilmember Reyes**, Covid testing, one day per week in Sonoma Valley, Wednesdays 9:30-11:30am at Boyes Park n Ride, and 2-4pm at St Leos Church.

**Karina Garcia**

- Supervisor Gorin advocating for further testing in Valley, w/ schools returning to in person. Needs are decreasing but still important. Working w/ Sonoma Valley High School staff & other schools. Working w/ Molecular Matrix.
- SVCAC meeting Wed. May 26, re update of Vacation Rental Ord, need community input. Encourage participation. Website for link/password to meeting. 6:30pm

[County of Sonoma: [www.sonoma-county.org](http://www.sonoma-county.org) select Boards and Commissions

City of Sonoma: [www.sonomacity.org](http://www.sonomacity.org) select Sonoma Valley Citizens Advisory Commission]

- Charla Comunitaria, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, 5:30pm all Spanish conversation re Covid resources/updates; testing, vaccine clinics, employee training & job assistance for career opportunities; mask use. An hour summary Repeat on TV50. Invited audience to watch.

See Sup Gorin or Karina's Facebook page.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/susangorin1st>

Zoom <https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/99333807169...>

Password: 211864

Meeting ID: 993 3380 7169

Por Telefono: Llame al 1-669-900-9128

Password: 211864

## Public Comment

None.

### 14. Consideration of Future Agenda Items

Chair Iturri: Fire Safe Council vs Fire Wise Community; Chief Akre quarterly report; Daniel Crowley w/ Mattson updates

Councilmember Goldman, invite PRMD/Tennis Wick, Dir. Covid delayed projects, need updated status of projects & how to collaborate w/ county & fast track Springs' projects. Businesses are struggling, Springs is an Opportunity Economic Zone. Pending Mattson projects have potential to revitalize local economy. Use MAC as an Advisory Council. Chair Iturri, will check w/ county for appropriate purview.

Karina, reminder MAC is not about land use; can provide input & comments. SVCAC is appropriate Commission.

Councilmember Lombard, have a presentation from County Economic Development, explore what kind of businesses could be developed by & employ local people, small businesses, manufacturing businesses; how to support/fund/etc.

Karina, also updates from: PGE, Cal Trans, Mattson projects, MAC budget

#### Chair Iturri called for Public Comment

**Tom Conlon**, suggested a library for Springs, a good civic Plaza anchored project

### 15. Adjourned 10:18pm

*Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Springs 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-AI, Santa Rosa, CA, during normal business hours.*

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Note: Consideration of items will proceed as follows:

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

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Web Links: County of Sonoma: [www.sonoma-county.org](http://www.sonoma-county.org) select Boards and Commissions

Additional links:

<https://www.facebook.com/susangorin1st>

[Springs MAC Facebook page](#)

[2021 meeting dates](#)

[Springs MAC county page](#)

Contact: Karina Garcia, Field Representative to Supervisor Susan Gorin –

[Karina.Garcia@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Karina.Garcia@sonoma-county.org)

**SPRINGS MAC YOU TUBE May 25, 2021**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OpoBKuU09XM&t=3s>