



**Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council
Minutes**

Regular Meeting

July 13, 2023 05:30 PM

Russian River Health Center Resiliency Center, 16385 First St, Guerneville, CA 95446

<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/lrrmac>

Chair - Rio Nido Representative Pip Marquez de la Plata • Vice Chair - Forestville Representative Lisa Nahmanson • Guerneville Representative Joe Rogoff • Guerneville Representative Nic Pereira • Pocket Canyon & Greater So Guerneville Representative Betsy Van Dyke • Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative Cynthia Strecker • Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative Mike Nicholls • Hacienda Representative Vicki Clewes • Forestville Representative Vesta Copestakes • Guerneville Alternate Kathy Dahl

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chair - Rio Nido Representative Pip Marquez de la Plata.

Meeting recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yujlxlwGSpq>

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Lead by Forestville Representative Vesta Copestakes

B. Roll Call

Present: Chair - Rio Nido Representative Pip Marquez de la Plata, Vice Chair - Forestville Representative Lisa Nahmanson, Guerneville Representative Joe Rogoff, Pocket Canyon & Greater So Guerneville Representative Betsy Van Dyke, Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative Cynthia Strecker, Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative Mike Nicholls, Hacienda Representative Vicki Clewes, Forestville Representative Vesta Copestakes, Guerneville Alternate Kathy Dahl
Absent: Guerneville Representative Nic Pereira
Staff Present: Supervisor Lynda Hopkins, Elise Weiland, Debbie Ramirez, Leo Chyi (remote) Michael Thompson, Asst. GM Sonoma Water

2. Approval of Agenda, Chair Pip Marquez de la Plata

Lisa Nahmanson and Cynthia Strecker addressed the MAC to advise / request permission to participate remotely pursuant to AB 2449 rules.

Forestville Representative Vesta Copestakes motioned to approve. A second was made by Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative Mike Nicholls. The roll call vote:

Aye Chair - Rio Nido Representative Pip Marquez de la Plata Aye Vice Chair - Forestville Representative Lisa Nahmanson Aye Guerneville Representative Joe Rogoff
Aye Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative Mike Nicholls Aye Hacienda Representative Vicki Clewes Aye Forestville Representative Vesta Copestakes Aye Guerneville Alternate Kathy Dahl Absent Guerneville Representative Nic Pereira Absent Pocket Canyon & Greater So Guerneville Representative Betsy Van Dyke Absent Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative Cynthia Strecker

3. Statement of Conflict of Interest

4. Oath of Office for newly appointed Rio Nido alternate, Jennifer Otten

Supervisor Lynda Hopkins administered the Oath of Office for Jennifer Otten.

5. Consent Agenda

- A. June 8 Minutes Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative Mike Nicholls motioned to approve. A second was made by Forestville Representative Vesta Copestakes. The roll call vote:

Aye Chair - Rio Nido Representative Pip Marquez de la Plata Aye Vice Chair - Forestville Representative Lisa Nahmanson Aye Guerneville Representative Joe Rogoff
Aye Pocket Canyon & Greater So Guerneville Representative Betsy Van Dyke
Aye Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative Mike Nicholls Aye Hacienda Representative Vicki Clewes
Aye Forestville Representative Vesta Copestakes
Aye Guerneville Alternate Kathy Dahl Abstained Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative Cynthia Strecker Absent Guerneville Representative Nic Pereira

6. County Report

Elise Weiland reported on engagement opportunities: MAC seats (Forestville, Hacienda and Guerneville) will be open - applications are due by August 31 - see LRR MAC website for link to application. CSD elections are coming up also - filing opens July 17 / Close August 11 for: Occidental CSD, Russian River County Water, Timber Cove County Water, Monte Rio Rec and Park, Russian River Rec & Park & there will be a community meeting in Guerneville this weekend, Saturday 7/15 regarding the Lower Russian River Governance Study.

Supervisor Hopkins provided some big picture county funding opportunity updates. There will be \$4 M for 5th district community infrastructure investments and there is still \$1 M remaining from 2022-23. Would love to hear from the MAC about priorities. Project possibilities include improvements to the area behind the Guerneville park & ride, possibly including a dog park, downtown park improvements in Occidental. She would love to receive community input for project suggestions.

The Housing Element planning commission meeting was taking place concurrently with the MAC meeting - she would love to meet with concerned community members after the planning commission completes their review and before it comes before the BOS regarding next steps and what is seen as gaps.

The Local Coastal Plan is coming before the BOS on Monday 7/18 and there are some controversial issues, including public access at the Estero Americano, site specific zoning, vacation rentals.

NOAA has a coastal funding opportunity in the form of one time grants in the range of \$15M - \$75M for regional resilience initiatives. Guerneville is eligible for funding. Kashia, Graton Rancheria, Ag & Open Space District, Regional Parks, and Sonoma Water are all interested in participating. Elise is facilitating the creation of a letter of intent due mid August.

The Guerneville Sheriff Substation is falling apart and the building needs repair. Supervisor Hopkins met with Cyndi Foreman of Sonoma County Fire, Eddie Engram, Sheriff, Jeff DuVall of Sonoma County Emergency Management, and Johannes Hoevertsz of Sonoma County Public Infrastructure (SoCoPi) to come up with a plan to rebuild the Guerneville Vets Building sooner rather than later and have it include the Fire Station and the Sheriff's Substation as well as community meeting space and Emergency Operations Center. The NOAA grant could be used towards the rehabilitation of an old building, but not the creation of a new building. Another source of funding for this could be the new fire sales tax measure that will be on the ballot in March - if it passes it will result in \$15 M towards the Guerneville Fire Station.

Chair Pip Marquez de la Plata suggested setting up an Infrastructure Funding Ad Hoc. Supervisor Hopkins replied that is a great idea and it might be useful to invite some non MAC members that are outside MAC boundaries to attend as well as Coast MAC members.

Mike Nicholls asked if the NOAA funding could help with Cazadero Fire Station reinforcement. Supervisor Hopkins responded that yes. There is a priority for tribal engagement and disadvantaged community engagement. Currently developing a spreadsheet wish list and that can and should be included.

Lisa asked for a recap on the Housing Element. The planning commission will consider it again on July 20. Leo Chyi reported that at the meeting today (7/13) included a lot of comments from people today about concerns about specific sites. The commissioners asked for additional information about many of the sites, including Forestville sites, the Guerneville site and the Graton sites. Staff will produce additional information and should be provided in the packet no later than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

7. Council Member Comment: on Matters not listed on the agenda

Vesta commented that she was excited that there has been interest in the Forestville MAC seats and introduced Lonny & Rio in the audience tonight. The Forestville Farmers Market is every Tuesday. SoCo Adapt has some new programs to help residents get their homes fire safe.

Vicky mentioned that the MAC has a table at both the Forestville and Guerneville markets.

Betsy reported that there will be a Gay Pride weekend in Guerneville 10/14-15.

8. Public Comments

There were no public comments

9. Presentation from Sonoma Water regarding potential effects to Russian River due to Potter Valley Dam decommissioning

Michael Thompson, Asst. GM from Sonoma Water gave a presentation on the background, timing, and process regarding the imminent decommissioning of the Potter Valley Dam. Please see recording beginning at 33:15 for full report.

<https://russianriverwaterforum.org/> is a great resource for information about this as well.

10. Committee Reports

A. Communications Ad Hoc, Report from Chair Joe Rogoff

Joe reported that the tabling at events has been a productive way to inform people of county resources and recruitment of prospective representatives. He reminded the group that both alternates and representatives can table and that there is no need to stay for the whole event. Some of the main questions they get are regarding: Main St. Bridge in Monte Rio, Housing Element, LCP, PG & E (3 power outages in Guerneville so far this week), trash, graffiti on old B of A building, how to remove animals / dead deer from road, concerns about new hotel / evacuation, potholes (people have reported fast response after using SoCo Connect). Joe also attended a Cafecitos meeting and there may be some interest from members there to engage with the MAC / run for a seat.

B. Community Clean Up Ad Hoc, Report from Chair Lisa Nahmanson

Please see written report. Vesta asked whether the River MAC was adopting a road through the adopt-a-road program with the county or were we working to help get roads adopted. Lisa suggested that this topic be discussed at the next ad hoc meeting which will be held on 7/27.

C. Pocket Canyon area renaming Ad Hoc, Report from Chair Betsy Van Dyke, discussion and possible decision regarding the renaming of the Pocket Canyon area and Guerneville areas

Betsy reported that the Ad Hoc recommends that the Pocket Canyon area be renamed Guerneville South / Pocket Canyon renamed. It was agreed that there would not be any need to change the name of the Guerneville area to include a designation of "north".

Revised bylaws will be presented at a future meeting for approval.

D. Land Acknowledgement Ad Hoc, Report from Chair Lisa Nahmanson

Lisa reported that the Land Acknowledgement process is layered and complex. Next steps involve engaging with local Tribes for guidance. Will consult with D5 / County Staff.

11. Adjournment

With a motion from Vesta and second from Mike, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM