



Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council

AGENDA

Regular Meeting

March 14, 2024 05:30 PM

Fife Creek Commons Community Room - 16376 5th Street, Guerneville, CA 95446

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

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/97689637737?pwd=c3VLeU00MkxhazRua29uZnlVYlhCZz09>

Chair & Rio Nido Representative: Pip Marquez de la Plata • Guerneville Representative: Joe Rogoff • Guerneville Representative: Spencer R. Scott • Guerneville South / Pocket Canyon Representative: Betsy Van Dyke • Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative: Cynthia Strecker • Vice Chair & Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative: Mike Nicholls • Hacienda Representative: Vicki Clewes • Forestville Representative: Lonnie Lazar • Forestville Representative: Thai Hilton

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

The Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council will make reasonable accommodations for persons having special needs due to disabilities. Please contact the Fifth District Field Representative at 707-565-1219 during regular business hours at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to ensure necessary accommodations are made.

1. Call to Order

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

2. Approval of Agenda

Discussion Possible Action

This approval process ensures that the agenda accurately reflects the items to be discussed and decided upon. Members may request adjustments to the agenda, including reordering or deletion of items at this time. Any changes must comply with the Brown Act requirements for public notice and agenda setting. The agenda must be finalized before the Council proceeds with other meeting items.

3. Statement of Conflict of Interest

Discussion

This is the time for the Chair, Vice Chair and Council Members to indicate any statements of conflict of interest for any item listed on this agenda. The River MAC bylaws state that members will not involve themselves in official River MAC activities that could materially benefit them personally, their business interests, or the interests of organizations that they represent. In a conflict of interest, the member will abstain from voting, and the abstention will be recorded in the minutes.

4. Consent Agenda

Discussion Possible Action

These items are expected to be routine and non-controversial. The Lower Russian River MAC will act upon them at one time without discussion. Any Representatives, staff member or interested party may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.

A. February 8 Minutes

B. Letter of Support to Congressman Jared Huffman regarding the Lower Russian River Sanitation District's Community Project Funding Request for the Wet Weather Treatment Plant Capacity Upgrades project.

C. Letter of Commendation to REDCOM for exemplary service during the storm event of Sunday February 4, 2024

5. Councilmember comment on matters not listed on the agenda

Discussion

Comments are restricted to matters within the Board's jurisdiction. Please be brief and limit spoken comments to one minute. Due to Brown Act regulations, this is not a time for discussion of any item, however a brief dialogue about considering an item for a future agenda is permitted during this time.

6. Public Comments

On Matters not listed on the agenda: Comments are restricted to matters within the Lower Russian River MAC's jurisdiction. Please be brief and limit spoken comments to two minutes.

7. County Update from Supervisor Lynda Hopkins / Staff

Discussion

Supervisor Hopkins will provide a County update including an update on the Tree Ordinances and the new District 5 Satellite office in Guerneville.

8. Renter Protections for Unincorporated Residential Tenants

Discussion

Erik Romero, Policy Analyst, will conduct a listening session to hear community concerns and inputs around the state of rental housing in unincorporated areas of Sonoma County, particularly the 5th District. This will help shape the policy options to be presented to the Board of Supervisors at their 5/21/24 meeting. The Board of Supervisors previously heard and discussed options to augment protections for unincorporated residential tenants at their 12/5/23 meeting. [[board item](#)] [[video recording](#)].

9. Committee & Community Project Reports

Discussion Possible Action

Written reports are included for review. Committee chair or delegate may briefly highlight parts of the update, respond to councilmember questions, and receive public comment.

A. Community Engagement and Outreach Ad Hoc

B. Land Use Standing Committee

C. Land Acknowledgement Committee

D. Governance Solutions Engagement Plan Ad Hoc

E. Guerneville Plaza Infrastructure Recommendations Ad Hoc

F. Community Stewardship Project

10. Prospective future agenda items - Informational item

Discussion

Care Court Implementation Plan

Fire Readiness / Vegetation Management / GMRS

Guerneville Public Safety

11. Adjournment



Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council
Minutes
Regular Meeting
February 08, 2024 05:30 PM
14630 Armstrong Woods Rd, Guerneville, CA 95446
<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/lrrmac>

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by Chair & Rio Nido Representative: Pip Marquez de la Plata.

meeting recording here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iomFPcoy7-k>

A Pledge of Allegiance

Lead by Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative: Cynthia Strecker

B Roll Call

Present: Chair & Rio Nido Representative: Pip Marquez de la Plata, Vice Chair & Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative: Mike Nicholls, Guerneville Representative: Joe Rogoff, Guerneville Representative: Spencer R. Scott, Guerneville South / Pocket Canyon Representative: Betsy Van Dyke, Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative: Cynthia Strecker, Forestville Representative: Lonnie Lazar, Forestville Representative: Thai Hilton, Hacienda Alternate: Brian Andriola

Staff Present: Debbie Ramirez, Mia Pedrazzetti

- 2. Approval of Agenda** Vice Chair & Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative: Mike Nicholls motioned to approve. A second was made by Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative: Cynthia Strecker.

The motion failed with the following vote:

In Favor Opposed
 Abstained Absent

3. Statement of Conflict of Interest

There were no statements of conflict of interest.

4. Consent Agenda

A. January 11 Minutes

Brian Andriola abstained as he was not present for the January 11 Meeting.

Vice Chair & Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative: Mike Nicholls motioned to approve. A second was made by Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative: Cynthia Strecker.

The motion passed with the following vote:

8 In Favor 0 Opposed
1 Abstained Absent

B. Councilmember comment on matters not listed on the agenda

Cynthia Strecker, the MAC liaison to the Lower Russian River Wastewater Citizens Advisory Group, which is working on wastewater issues for Monte Rio and Villa Grande reported that she has organized a tour of the Riverbend RV Park as an educational opportunity. It is in one of the first areas to flood, a common concern for our community. The tour is scheduled for Saturday, February 1, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. I've added your names to the list, so if anyone else is interested, please let me know. This issue might also affect other communities in the future. Remarkably, both the engineer who designed the system and the contractor who installed it will be present, allowing us to address most of our queries. [note: this tour was subsequently canceled due to inclement weather]

Betsy Van Dyke reported that on February 19, Russian River Pride will host a gala event at Dawn Ranch, featuring a dinner and grant distributions to five or six different organizations.

Mike Nicholls reported that a GMRS radio network exists throughout West County and the entire county. A training session is scheduled for March 10 in Occidental. This event will include radio distribution and a training session for participants, emphasizing the importance of this project, particularly in remote communities like Cazadero during power and communication failures.

Pip Marquez de la Plata reported that on February 17, the Monte Rio Community Center, in collaboration with Friends of Rio Nido and Monte Rio groups, will host a West County homeowners insurance seminar. This event aims to address concerns surrounding insurance, featuring representatives from the California State Insurance Commissioner's office and United Policyholders, a consumer advocacy group. The seminar will cover topics such as policy protection, navigating the current insurance market, mitigation standards, insights on filing claims, and more. This is an excellent opportunity for those with insurance questions or concerns. The seminar is scheduled for February 17, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Monte Rio Community Center.

C. Public Comments

A community member announced a new website, lowerrussianriver.com, related to a community initiative taking shape around the Lower Russian River Governance Solutions study.

A property owner expressed concerns over flooding and homeless issues near Armstrong Woods Road, highlighting the need for creek restoration and better flood management.

A request was made for a PG&E hotline to address concerns about burying power lines, especially after recent incidents of downed wires leaving communities without power.

Concerns were raised about the potential increase in water levels during winter due to the demolition of the Pillsbury Lake dam and its impact on the Russian River and Eel River.

A former homeless individual shared insights into factors attracting homelessness, including

services and drug availability. They highlighted the fire risks posed by encampments and suggested stricter law enforcement to mitigate these issues.

A resident voiced frustrations over drug-related tourism and the safety hazards posed by trash and encampments, calling for effective solutions and law enforcement intervention.

A proposal for a warming station at the senior center was criticized for attracting undesirables and compromising safety.

Concerns were raised about the condition of Riverside Drive and Highway 116, particularly regarding maintenance and repair to address potholes and flooding issues. There was also a call to ban jet skis on the river, suggesting coordination with the Department of Fish and Game to prevent gas-powered vehicles from affecting the river ecosystem.

D. County Update from Supervisor Lynda Hopkins / Staff

Supervisor Hopkins addressed storm impacts and infrastructure failures in the recent atmospheric rivers, emphasizing the critical damage in Rio Nido, where a major culvert failure led to sinkhole formation, affecting roads and properties. Efforts to manage the flooding in Austin Creek and Giovanetti Road were highlighted, alongside challenges in repairing these damages. Supervisor Hopkins also responded to concerns about Fife Creek, revealing ongoing efforts to find a holistic solution to its management, including federal grant applications for a long-term plan.

There's an urgency to develop evacuation plans for RV parks, following the evacuation challenges faced during the floods. Supervisor Hopkins addressed PG&E's communication and resource allocation during power outages, and will continue to advocate for better infrastructure management to prevent future incidents. She mentioned ongoing efforts to address the region's narcotic issues, aiming to revitalize the narcotics unit for more effective drug enforcement.

Additionally, Supervisor Hopkins discussed initiatives to improve infrastructure resilience against atmospheric rivers, including briefings with Scripps Institute and Sonoma Water for better storm prediction and management. Efforts to lobby for more resources from PG&E and the state for power line undergrounding were also mentioned.

Finally, Hopkins highlighted community engagement and legislative efforts to address local governance and infrastructure financing, aiming to enhance response and prevention strategies for environmental challenges and infrastructure needs.

E. Lower Russian River Governance Study Discussion

The chair opened the discussion with a question about how does the Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) want to engage in governance solutions process moving forward, presenting multiple options including scheduling governance study sections every other month to discuss various topics and receive feedback, which would impact future agendas. The option to encourage MAC members to hold town halls in their districts was also proposed as a way to engage more people in the community and gather input.

Joe Rogoff raised concerns about the dialogue happening online and emphasized the need for honest conversations and trust, particularly regarding financial numbers related to governance. He suggested finding ways to bring clarity and mutual agreement to move forward.

Cynthia Strecker expressed concerns that discussions might give the impression that certain outcomes were already decided, though she clarified that the council could decide to maintain the status quo. The importance of involving the community in the process to ensure

a more accepted solution was emphasized.

Betsy Van Dyke and Pip Marquez de la Plata discussed the long-term nature of the governance process and the importance of keeping the community informed and engaged. They mentioned the need for the MAC to play a role in continuing discussions and ensuring that the community understands the range of options available.

Thai Hilton highlighted the importance of understanding the community's interest before exploring the feasibility of various governance options, such as incorporation or establishing special districts. He likened the Governance Solutions report to a menu and that there is a need to determine the community's appetite. The need for education and dispelling misinformation was also mentioned.

The discussion continued with various members of the council and community expressing their views on the importance of education, engagement, and addressing misinformation. The potential formation of an ad hoc committee to explore governance options and engage the community was discussed, with emphasis on ensuring the process is community-driven and well-informed.

In summary, the key themes of the discussion included the importance of community engagement and education in the governance process, the need for clear and trustworthy information, and the consideration of various governance options.

The council chose to form an hoc committee for a period of two months to study and report back to the MAC on how to best provide community education, gather feedback, keep momentum and encourage broad engagement in ongoing discussions regarding Lower Russian River Governance solutions. The committee consists of Patty Thayer, Spencer Scott, Betsy Van Dyke, and Brian Andriola.

Vice Chair & Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative: Mike Nicholls motioned to approve. A second was made by Guerneville South / Pocket Canyon Representative: Betsy Van Dyke.

The motion passed with the following vote:

 8 **In Favor** 0 **Opposed**
 Abstained **Absent**

F. Guerneville Plaza Infrastructure Improvement Planning

Chair Pip Marquez de la Plata explained that while there are security and law enforcement issues at the Guerneville Plaza that the MAC intends to explore, this conversation is aimed at discussing infrastructure improvements and how to make the plaza a more attractive and functional space for the community. Supervisor Hopkins has earmarked \$750,000 to fund both a downtown park and upgrades to the plaza. The goal here is to engage the community in defining improvements to make the plaza a place that better serves the needs and desires of the community.

An ad hoc committee was proposed to gather community input on how the plaza should be redesigned or changed. This committee will consider various factors, including whether the space should be used for events, how to deter unwanted activities, and how the plaza can be redesigned to change its current use. The committee will work with the chamber of commerce and property owners to gather a wide range of perspectives.

The funding for these projects is part of a larger allocation that Supervisor Hopkins and her team have secured for community infrastructure needs in Western Sonoma County, totaling around \$6 million. The focus is on making meaningful improvements in small towns

throughout the county, with Gville identified as needing several infrastructure improvements.

The discussion also touches on the importance of designing the plaza in a way that reflects the broader progression and vision for the town. Community members express support for the initiative and suggest consulting existing research and case studies on similar civic projects for guidance. The ad hoc committee will consist of two Gville MAC representatives, an additional council member, and a community member representing the chamber of commerce. The goal is to ensure the project benefits from a wide range of community insights and experiences to redesign the plaza effectively.

The MAC appointed a committee consisting of Guerneville representatives Joe Rogoff, Spencer Scott, and Guerneville South / Pocket Canyon representative Betsy Van Dyke to gather community input (including that of businesses and adjacent property owners – including Chamber President Mags Van Der Veen, Suzy Kuhr & Herman J Hernandez), research successful infrastructure projects that other communities have implemented and return to the MAC at the April meeting with recommendations. On a motion from Cynthia Strecker and second from Thai Hilton the MAC voted unanimously to approve the formation of this ad hoc committee.

G. Committee & Community Project Reports

A. Community Engagement and Outreach Committee

B. Land Use Committee

C. Community Clean Up Project - no report

D. Land Acknowledgement Committee - no report

H. Formation of 2024 Land Use Committee

The 2024 Land Use Standing committee will be comprised of Patty Thayer, Chair; Mike Nicholls; Lonnie Lazar; and Nick Schwanz (non-MAC Community Member role)

Guerneville Representative: Joe Rogoff motioned to approve. A second was made by Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative: Cynthia Strecker.

The roll call vote:

Aye Chair & Rio Nido Representative: Pip Marquez de la Plata Aye Vice Chair & Cazadero / Duncan Mills Representative: Mike Nicholls Aye Guerneville Representative: Joe Rogoff Aye Guerneville South / Pocket Canyon Representative: Betsy Van Dyke Aye Monte Rio / Villa Grande Representative: Cynthia Strecker Aye Forestville Representative: Lonnie Lazar Aye Forestville Representative: Thai Hilton Aye Hacienda Alternate: Brian Andriola Abstained Guerneville Representative: Spencer R. Scott

I. Prospective future agenda items - Informational item

J. Adjournment

With a motion from Cynthia Strecker and Second from Joe Rogoff, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM

DRAFT



Forestville

Lonnie Lazar
Thai Hilton
Alternate: Lisa
Nahmanson

Hacienda

Vicki Clewse
Alternate: Brian
Andriola

Pocket Canyon

Betsy Van Dyke
Alternate: Greg Hennig

Rio Nido

Pip Marquez de la Plata,
Chair
Alternate: Jenn Otten

Guerneville

Joe Rogoff
Spencer Scott
Alternate: Kathy Dahl

Monte Rio

Cynthia Strecker
Alternate: Patty Thayer

Cazadero/Duncans Mills

Mike Nicholls, Vice Chair
Alternate:
Tony Goodwin

March 14, 2024

The Honorable Jared Huffman
U.S. House of Representatives
1527 Longworth Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Huffman:

I am writing to express the Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council's support for the Russian River County Sanitation District's (RRCSD) Community Project Funding request for the Wet Weather Treatment Plant Capacity Upgrades project. The funding request is being made by the Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) which owns and operates the RRCSD.

The Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council is established to advise the Board of Supervisors and other County decision-makers on local planning and management decisions relating to the Lower Russian River 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 residents, businesses, and the general public on local government decisions affecting the Lower Russian River.

The RRCSD service area includes the small unincorporated Sonoma County areas of Rio Nido, Guerneville, Guerneville Park, and Vacation Beach. The RRCSD treatment plant provides wastewater collection and treatment to approximately 3,300 parcels using a gravity collection system and treats wastewater from approximately 3,200 equivalent single-family dwellings. The treatment plant cleans the community's wastewater to tertiary recycled-water standards. Improvements are needed at the RRCSD treatment plant to increase its sustainable treatment capacity during Russian River flood events. The requested funding is for designing and implementing improvements to the RRCSD's wastewater treatment plant to allow it to produce tertiary treated recycled water through extended periods of flooding on the Russian River. These improvements would include increasing the capacity of pipelines, pumps, and associated valves that limit the capacity of the treatment plant. The total project cost through completion of construction is estimated to be \$1,900,000 and will be funded through a combination of the requested federal assistance (\$1,500,000) and RRCSD ratepayer revenues (\$400,000). The RRCSD already has some of the highest sanitation rates in the state, is a small, underfunded district, therefore any federal funding assistance would help keep rates as low as possible while implementing this critical project. Without this federal funding support, rate payers would bear a larger share, if not all, of the cost of this project.

The RRCSD Wet Weather Treatment Plant Capacity Upgrades project is critical to strengthening the region's wastewater treatment capabilities, serving unincorporated communities, and protecting our environment.

We kindly request your consideration of the RRCSD's project.

Sincerely,

Pip Marquez de la Plata
Chair, Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council



Forestville
 Lonnie Lazar
 Thai Hilton
 Alternate: Lisa
 Nahmanson

Hacienda
 Vicki Clewes
 Alternate: Brian
 Andriola

Pocket Canyon
 Betsy Van Dyke
 Alternate: Greg Hennig

Rio Nido
 Pip Marquez de la Plata,
 Chair
 Alternate: Jenn Otten

Guerneville
 Joe Rogoff
 Spencer Scott
 Alternate: Kathy Dahl

Monte Rio
 Cynthia Strecker
 Alternate: Patty Thayer

Cazadero/Duncans Mills
 Mike Nicholls, Vice Chair
 Alternate:
 Tony Goodwin

March 14, 2024

Evonne Stevens
 Executive Director
 REDCOM Fire & Medical Dispatch
 2796 Ventura Ave,
 Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Dear Ms. Stevens,

On behalf of the Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council (MAC), I extend our deepest gratitude and commendation to your team, and especially to Holly Ficher, for their exemplary service during the storm event on Sunday, February 4, 2024. The professionalism, diligence, and resilience displayed by your team, under what we understand to be one of the busiest days in the history of REDCOM, were nothing short of remarkable.

During this critical time, Holly Ficher, serving as the dispatcher on Control 2, covering the Russian River/Coastal and Northern Sonoma County area, demonstrated exceptional poise, efficiency, and an unwavering commitment to her duties. Her ability to stay composed, maintain clarity in communication, and manage the overwhelming volume of emergency calls undoubtedly played a pivotal role in our community's ability to navigate the challenges posed by the storm. Holly's performance was a beacon of reliability and hope amidst the chaos, and it is imperative that her hard work and dedication are recognized and celebrated.

We would also like to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of the entire dispatch team who worked tirelessly alongside Holly during the day and night of the storm. Each individual contributed significantly to the overall emergency response effort for our county. Therefore, we extend our appreciation to:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| - Greg Fontana | - Taylor Forslind |
| - Darrell Kopriva | - Lindsay Senecka |
| - Jason Krout | - Marisol Garcia |
| - Monica Vanoni | - Elizabeth Brodt |
| - Meagan Horeczko | - Forest Neel Grant |
| - Sarah Bacigalupi | - Jasmine Mitchell |
| - William Buck | - Evonne Stevens |

Your team's dedication to serving our community, particularly during such challenging times, is truly inspiring. Your hard work does not go unnoticed, and we sincerely thank you for the significant impact you have made on our community. Your dedication to serving our community is truly inspiring.

In gratitude,

Pip Marquez de la Plata
 Chair, Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council

LRRMAC Communications Committee Ad Hoc Committee Update for MAC meeting of March 14, 2024

The Communications Committee met on February 24. Present were D5 staff Debbie Ramirez, community member Marcia Petre, members Vicki Clewes, Betsy VanDyke and Thai Hilton, and chair Joe Rogoff.

Debbie provided clarification on community members' participation in ad hocs. Ad hocs cannot have people who are not MAC reps as committee members. They can, however, invite them to meetings as subject matter experts or if they have particular insight into relevant topics.

We discussed augmenting the ways in which we communicate upcoming meetings and events, and assigned members with contacting radio stations and print media. We'll also initiate a presentation at a River to Coast Children's Services meeting to begin to make inroads in the Spanish speaking community. And community member Marcia has volunteered to put up posters for meetings in the Guerneville area.

We were tasked with updating the LRRMAC Engagement and Outreach plan, which we did electronically. Joe will prepare the final draft to send to Debbie.

We had a discussion about how we interact with the other ad hocs – Guerneville Plaza and LRR Governance. These are initially 2 month committees working on what and how these projects proceed. We expect we'll be able to play a role in communicating their findings.

Lastly, we reviewed our 2024 goals to ensure each was being addressed.



Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council

575 Administration Drive, Room 100A

Santa Rosa CA 95403

February 1, 2024

To: Lower Russian River MAC Representatives and Alternates
From: Michael Nicholls – Land Use Committee Chair
Subject: Land Use Sub-Committee Meeting

The Land Use Committee held a joint meeting with the Lower Russian River MAC on February 1, 2024. The agenda included Major Land Use Project Process and Steps for Public Input. Hosting Deputy Director of Permit Sonoma, ScoF Orr. Attendees included Planning Commissioners Koenigshofer and Marquez and MAC Members ScoF and Strecker. The agenda also included the Sub-Committee's Organization and Meeting Calendar for 2024.

Agenda Item 3

Deputy Director Orr reviewed Ministerial, Discretionary and Land Use permitting in detail. It was noted by committee members and by public input, that permitting is a complex subject and challenging for constituents to follow. Mr. Orr shared that Permit Sonoma had identified this issue and a new employee will be charged with updating websites and outreach into a format understood by the lay person. It was urged from public comment, that a glossary of terms also be included on outreach by Permit Sonoma. Committee members were grateful to be updated on the streamlining process undertaken by Permit Sonoma at the request from the County Board of Supervisors. The meeting minutes will include the specific examples Mr. Orr presented on each type of permit.

Agenda Item 4

Chair Nicholls stated that succession is important on public committees and recommended that a new chair be appointed for 2024. Member Thayer indicated she would volunteer for the chair position for 2024 if Nicholls would remain on the committee. Member Rogoff stated his interest on remaining on the committee. Member Hernandez has resigned from the committee and Nick Schwanz, co-owner of Solarpunk Farms in Guerneville volunteered for the community member position on the Committee. We will require the full MAC Council to confirm the existing members, appoint a new MAC representative to the committee and confirm Mr. Schwanz as the community member to the board.

Agenda Item 5

The committee agreed to a standing calendar, meeting on the first Thursday of even numbered months. Special Meetings may be held at the discretion of the Chair.

Sincerely,

Michael Nicholls, Chair, Land Use Sub-Committee
Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council



Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council

Community Project: STEWARDSHIP

March 2024 Report

Members: Lisa Nahmanson (Chair: Forestville Alternate); Vicki Clewes (MAC Representative: Hacienda); Brian Andriola (MAC Alternate: Hacienda); Patty Thayer (MAC Alternate: Monte Rio/Villa Grande); Vesta Copestakes (Volunteer: Forestville (Past Rep from Forestville)); Carol Shumate (Volunteer: Russian Riverkeepers); we would love to have more community volunteers on our Stewardship Project.

Staff: Debbie Ramirez and Lupe Catalan

Student Intern: Mia Pedrazzetti

Next Meeting Time: 4th Thursday of the month at 5 pm. (3/28/24 at 5pm)

What is a Community Project?

- A community project can be ongoing, and does not have limitations in the same way that an ad hoc does (created for a specific purpose and defined time) therefore better able to be nimble and responsive to community needs as they occur.
- When rotating members at the end of each year, we will need to ensure consistency of project purpose and focus.

What we are currently engaged in:

- At our January meeting we discussed our concept of Stewardship. We hope to meet on zoom or in person with many of the local community groups to see where we can help.
- In early February, Vicki and Brian attended a meeting of Hacienda Improvement Association (HIA) to talk about our project. Brian is the VP of this group. This helped to solidify a connection to HIA from the MAC, the HIA members understood the purpose of the MAC and many signed up for the District 5 (D5) newsletter.
- As a follow up, HIA seems interested in hosting a community clean up!

- Vicki and Brian are in touch with Sonoma County Public Infrastructure (SOCOPI) to be Stewards of the Hacienda Bridge to keep up with painting over political graffiti that the County can not keep up with. This is not under the bridge, it is along the roadway.
- Vicki and Vesta will be helping out at the Forestville Planning Association's (FPA) Work Day to clear weeds and blackberry bushes from the Downtown Park (March 9th)
- Patty and Lisa met on a zoom to go over the Community Clean Up Documents so that Patty can help to start to plan a "dump day" for her community of MR/VG at a future date. This will involve finding a 501(c)(3) to sponsor. And of course enlisting the knowledge of Carol Shumate.
- Vesta is investigating how we can potentially help Seniors in our community.
- Lisa wants to ensure that enough toilets are deployed for summer visitors to the River. *(Can we place a MAP on the LRRMAC webpage with locations marked for public restrooms and porta-potties available to the public? This is a Google Map function that just requires importing a spreadsheet with the address locations)*
- Does your group want to hear from our Stewardship Project at your next meeting? Get in touch with your local MAC representative or at Lisa.Rivermac@gmail.com