

THE EL RIO /DEL NORTE MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Serving as Advisory Council for recreational activities in the El Rio, Nyeland Acres, Strickland and Agricultural Areas or El Rio/Del Norte area, including advisory recommendations for the El Rio Roger Jones Community Center and the Nyeland Acres Community Center

Thursday February 20th, 2025, 7:00 pm

John C. Zaragoza Community Center
3334 Santa Clara Ave. Oxnard, CA 93036

Meeting started at 7:01

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll Call

Regular Members

David Souza (Vice Chair) (Nyeland Acres)

Absent

Bonnie Bernal (Cloverdale)

Excused

Julie Hupp (Strickland)

Present

Lorane Bailon (Rio Plaza)

Excused

At Large Members

Mike Barber (Chair)

Present

Aaron Wedemeyer

Present

Brenda Heredia

Present

Others Present: Captain Gibson, VC Sheriff's Office; Assistant Sheriff Andrew Salinas, VC Sheriff's Office; Deputy Brian Helm, VC Sheriffs; Officer Mike Untalan, CHP; James Douglas, HLU Sheriff's Office; Ariana Castellanos-Rodriguez, Supervisor Kelly Long's office

III. Approval of Summary Meeting Minutes for January 16th 2025

Julie Hupp made the motion to approve the minutes from January 16th

Brenda Heredia seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

IV. Public Safety Updates

Ventura County Sheriff's Department, CHP, Oxnard PD

- VC Sheriff Homeless Liaison Unit (HLU)

James Douglas from the HLU Team was there to inform the community about the Homeless Liaison Unit and mentioned it being fully staffed with 8 full-time officers. They work 7 days a week with a variety of different agencies and resources to help those who are homeless and provide help via backpack medicine. Some issues they tend to see are issues with fires, RV's, and waste. He mentions about 100+ encampments in the river bottoms. Their HLU team allows them to help alleviate some of Sheriff's patrol from issues related to homeless.

Captain Gibson mentioned Coffee with a Cop was a successful event in El Rio. They will be participating in Read Across America. There has also been a trend of phone fraud by individuals

pretending to be representatives from Sheriffs and immigration attorneys. Their office has done social media posts and information about this trend and advises the community to be aware. He also spoke about immigration raids and information. Sheriff Fryhoff went to Washington to discuss the issue, and ICE is targeting people with criminal backgrounds. The VC Sheriffs do not participate in immigration enforcement. Captain Gibson mentioned that it's not part of their job to do that work but to be here and serve the communities. Please reach out to their office for any information or help, they are there to keep people safe. An individual asked how ICE agents were getting information about where to find individuals, which was answered by Assistant Sheriff Salinas saying that they are getting tips from other people.

Update from CHP by Officer Untalan, they stand with the Sheriff's Office regarding immigration, they do not and will not participate in ICE raids or provide information. They have been getting concerns about not having enough officers out patrolling due to a shortage in officers. They will be starting to increase their presence in the area, which will include citing, dealing with motorhomes and ask for the community's patience. They will be putting the radar trailer on Santa Clara Ave starting Monday (2/24) and will be there for one or two weeks. Next week they will also be having motorcycles patrolling. On March 5th they will be doing Reading Across America and will be at the career fair at RDV. Reminder to continue sending CHP complaints and concerns. A community member informs Officer Untalan about an ongoing issue he is having regarding his property.

V. Comments from Supervisor Long's Office

- Public Works Website Update

Ariana Castellanos-Rodriguez from Supervisor Long's office informed the MAC about Public Works newest addition to their website which is their Public Works Maintenance Schedule & Road Closures. This allows individuals to view information pertaining to road maintenance and closures and a two-week look ahead that shows what day the work will be happening. She also mentioned that the Ventura County Animal Services is having \$10 rabies vaccine clinics open to the public on a first come first serve basis. They will be having them throughout the year at the Camarillo Animal Shelter and various clinics within the community. They will be having one Thursday, March 20th from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm at Fire Station 51 across from El Rio. For items VIII and IX, these are presentations that will be coming to our next MAC meeting in March. She mentioned that information item X is the tentative community cleanup dates for El Rio and Nyeland Acres. Residents will receive a postcard in the mail a few weeks before the cleanup. These dates will be on the agenda until the events pass for community members to refer to. She also reminded individuals about utilizing the PWA app which allows the community to report various issues such as illegal dumping, potholes, graffiti on county-maintained roadways, and more.

VI. Public Comments for Items Not on the Agenda

Mary Anne R. mentioned that Ayxa received the 2025 History Maker Award from Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE). She is 1 of 5 young Latina women who received the award in the State. Oscar H. mentioned how the Rio School District was able to take 500 kids involved in sports and chaperones to the UCLA Men's Basketball game. Rio Del Valle team 6th grade team is in the finals. They are having soccer for K-8th girls and boys and are going to be having a tournament in April.

VII. Council Member Comments

Brenda H. mentioned that Nyeland Promise will be hosting a rabies clinic on March 1st. Services provided will be vaccines, spray and neutering for cats and dogs.

Information Items

- VIII. Public Works Pedestrian Sidewalk Update to be presented at the March 20th meeting**
- IX. Ventura County RMA Planning Division Presentation on Planned Development Permit No. PL24-0117 will be presented at the March 20th meeting**
- X. E.J. Harrison Community Cleanup Dates: El Rio, Eternal Life Church – June 14, 2025
Nyeland Acres, Nyeland Acres Community Center – October 25, 2025**
- XI. Adjourn: 7:53 pm**
- XII. Next Meeting: March 20th, 2025 @ 7 PM / Roger Jones Community Center**