

**SOUTH COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Minutes for the September 24, 2012 Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Bill Dorland who led the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called by Secretary Elaine Thomas with the following members present:

Bill Dorland	Pat Duron
El-Jay Hanssen	Istar Holliday
Vince McCarthy	Gary Spelbring
Elaine Thomas	Dan Woodson
Richard Wright	Vern Dahl

The following members were absent:

Rick Dean	Dan Gaddis
Susan Cholakian	Ed Eby, NCSD
Harry Walls	

A quorum was declared.

**Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:** For the convenience of residents of the community who wish to speak about the Viva Farms traffic, it was suggested that the topic follow the Community Presentations portions of this meeting. Istar Holliday so moved, seconded by Gary Spelbring. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes for the SCAC August 27, 2012 Meeting:** Vince McCarthy said the announcement by Jeanne Taylor in reference to cell phone registration was not noted in the minutes. Istar Holliday moved that we defer approval of the minutes until the October SCAC meeting. Vince McCarthy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Comments from the Chair: Chairman Bill Dorland** said he will be meeting with Supervisor Paul Teixeira on September 27 at the Arroyo Grande Library. Bill asked that another member of the SCAC accompany him to this meeting. Dick Wright said he would possibly be able to attend and will notify Bill if so.

Istar Holliday said she had received a memo from Debbie Geaslen who requested that three questions be submitted in writing prior to the meeting with Supervisor Teixeira. Bill Dorland asked what topics we would like to have discussed at the meeting and the following were suggested:

- Funding
- Better attendance from Sup. Teixeira at the SCAC meetings
- Viva Farms traffic problem
- Nipomo Regional Park – lost letters

**Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Richard Wright** submitted the following reports:  
June 30, 2012

Dump Fees - 895.76                      Library - 1,252.42                      Total - 2,148.18

July 31, 2012

Dump Fees – 895.76                      Library – 1,202.42                      Total – 2,098.18

August 31, 2012

Dump Fees – 895.76                      Library – 1152.42                      Total – 2,048.18

**Community Presentations:**

**Cal-Fire Chief Mike Deleo** reported:

August 2012 Activity Report:

Nipomo Station 20	Total Calls 137	YTD 918
16 Fires	74 Medical	
16 Vehicle Accidents	31 Other	

Mesa Station 22	Total calls 55	YTD 387
6 Fires	30 Medical	
16 Vehicle Accidents	12 Other	

Training: Nipomo Paid Call Firefighters trained patient assessment and hose evolutions. This has been a busy fire season because of the dry weather conditions. Employees have been on staffing patterns.

Prevention: A Fire Prevention Fee will be mailed to residences in October in San Luis Obispo County. The fee is \$115.00 per year for all habitable structures in the SRA. For additional information go to [www.FirePreventionFee.org](http://www.FirePreventionFee.org). The Fee will be collected by the Board of Equalization

Station 22 has been busy with business inspections and fire preplans. Cal-Fire crews from Nipomo are preparing for 2 future control burns: Alamo Creek area of 1200 acres and upper Huasna Valley with 600 acres.

A fund raiser was held for Lauren Byrne a 22 yr. old quadriplegic who is the sister of John Byrne, a Cal-Fire employee. John is riding his bicycle from San Francisco to New York to help raise funds for his sister to obtain a vehicle. Several local men rode with him for the first number of miles. He is presently in Colorado and rides approximately 100 miles per day. Chief Deleo thanked the community for helping with the fund raiser dinner that was recently held.

Vern Dahl raised a question about vehicle access to the Dunes. At this time Mesa Station is able to use the Conoco-Phillips service road onto the Dunes. But a vehicle is needed for better access.

**Sheriff's Office: Commander Jim Taylor** announced his recent promotion and assignment to the South County area. His background is primarily in Narcotics Enforcement. Present projects are:

1. Compliance checks for tobacco sales. Underage young people are trained to go to stores that sell tobacco and attempt to make a purchase. He said 59 stores in the

unincorporated area sell tobacco and 11 sold to minors. Three of the stores were in Nipomo.

2. Police cars are now being upgraded with digital recorders rather than the former DVD system. This will expedite information to the Sheriffs.

3. We now have a new morgue in San Luis Obispo. Formerly a mortuary facility in Los Osos had been used and had been inadequate for autopsies as well as security. The new morgue has been built to specification and is now state-of-the art.

4. Blacklake Homeowners Association recently held a meeting to talk about crime in their area. Commander Taylor was pleased that 65 residents attended the meeting.

5. Scams continue with a new one which contacts an elderly person assuring them that they can have their home paid-off if they submit money to the person calling. So far a local person has lost approximately \$57,000. It is hoped that there is a computer trail for the calls and an investigation is taking place.

6. Commander Taylor announced that they are understaffed, but grateful that the understaffing is not as much as some areas in the county. There are presently 30 Deputy Sheriff's in the Arroyo Grande, Oceano and Nipomo areas.

Discussion followed.

**California Highway Patrol John Townson** said traffic safety around school is presently emphasized since school has begun.

The radar trailer has been in our area for several months. If there is a problem to report, he issued his phone number: 595-5311 and urged the residents to call him.

**SLO County Planning – Code Enforcement Division Art Trinidad** was present and reported that there will be a creek clean-up in the near future.

The county is working with Habitat for Humanity to provide rehabilitation homes for the elderly.

Several areas are in need of weed abatement. He said they are understaffed but hope to add additional employees in the near future.

Istar Holliday asked about the letters in reference to the Nipomo Regional Park. This item has about a 10 year history and numerous letters have been written in reference to the improvements to the park. The letters are presently missing, but Mr. Trinidad said they will have a diligent search for them.

Richard Wright asked about the Swap Meet traffic and parking issues. Are there items concerning the Swap Meet that are out of code? Storage of items and loud music was also mentioned. Mr. Trinidad said he did not know if any of these items were out of code but would look more closely at the business application to determine if there are discrepancies.

The subject of the “pig farm” on Camino Caballo was mentioned in which a property owner has pigs and slaughters them on site. For regulatory purposes the operation is classified as a butcher shop “grandfathered” in a residential area. The owner has been extremely cooperative. He is now in an educational course with the USDA in order to comply with the codes for handling the animals and the slaughter.

The trailer village that is located on north highway 101 near the new Willow Interchange has been viewed as to the possibility of code violations. The “village” is owned by the Universal Church of God which is headquartered in Berkeley, California. Mr. Trinidad said the county is cognizant of the problems that exist on this property and indicated that several county departments are planning to enforce some of these violations.

**Nipomo Community Services District :- Jim Harrison reported for Ed Eby.** There is presently an expansion and upgrade project of the sewer located near Southland Ave. It is to be completed by the middle of the summer 2013.

**Lucia Mar School District: – Vern Dahl** reported the New Tech High School is up and running with about 125 students.

Lucia Mar District has about 7 new administrators and the number of students in Nipomo High School is down about 50 students from last year. Training is being provided for school board members.

The feasibility of a solar power project for the schools in the Lucia Mar District is being discussed. These discussions are taking place across California with the hope that solar power could be a benefit to the schools.

The Lucia Mar District is urging a YES vote on Proposition 30 which would in some measure benefit the schools. If it does not pass, the district is prepared to use some of their savings funds to augment the staff salaries. A vote of NO is being urged for Proposition 32.

**Parks Commissioner: – Connie O’Henley** reported that the Master Plans for the Nipomo Regional Park and Biddle Park will be presented at the Board of Supervisors meeting on November 6, 2012

Istar Holliday asked if Ms. O’Henley had received her letter requesting a continuance on the approval of the Master Plan that will be presented at the Board of Supervisors meeting. Istar indicated several items in the master plan that were a problem such as the “Little Bits Pre-School” which is privately run, the liability questions in reference to the school, the water availability and the lack of community review. Ms. O’Henley said she had not received the letter however Istar had a receipt indicating that the letter had been received. Istar also asked about the missing letters from residents in reference to the Park.

**Chamber of Commerce:– Rudy Stowell** invited everyone to attend the October Fest scheduled for October 24. This festival has been held every year since 1984.

He said the Chamber of Commerce is hoping to host a debate for the candidates who are running for offices.

**Public Comment:**

**Doug Millhorn, President of the Nipomo Area Recreation Association** spoke in reference to approval of the Master Plan of the Nipomo Park. He was under the impression that SCAC members are against the improvements to the park. He submitted two letters; one signed by himself to Supervisor Paul Teixeira and the other signed by Warren R. Jensen, County Council addressed the Supervisor Teixeira. Mr. Millhorn maintains that the “Little Bits Pre-School” is legal.

**Jennifer Chew**, who is resident of Nipomo was present with her husband and two young children and requested that the SCAC support the Master Plan as submitted and said this area needs the park and the facilities that have been suggested.

**Consent Agenda: – Phillips 66 Santa Maria Facility (formerly Tosco Refinery) MUP** (Tosco DRC2012-00015) and 2012 Annual South County Circulation Study. The consent agenda was not voted on since two members of the SCAC had left the meeting earlier and there was now no quorum present. The SCAC apologized to Phillips 66 Santa Maria Facility representative of this request and indicated it would be able to be voted on at the October SCAC meeting.

**Viva Farms:– Mike Berry** spoke about the increased traffic on Camino Caballo and was unhappy that the County Planning and Code Enforcement Department did not agree that the farm had also become a distribution center. Mr. Trinidad spoke in reference to the difficulties in code enforcement. He explained that when the applicable zoning was adopted many years ago the primary use of the area was agricultural and “greenhouses” were a permitted use. No conditions were imposed limiting hours of operation, noise or traffic at the time of application and approved of the farms. He said the residents had legitimate complaints with the amount of big-rig traffic on their residential street, but at the present the Director of Planning has no authority to “make laws” by interpretation or imposing conditions on this operation. The residents need to go through the appeals process to clarify the applicable codes so as to limit operation so that it is compatible with the adjoining residential area.

Several residents spoke and cited big-rig truck traffic both during the day and all through the night, the wear and tear on Camino Caballo which was not built to withstand this type of traffic, the number of trucks running, the dust and noise from the traffic and the depreciation of property values. Discussion followed.

Mr. Trinidad reported that the owner of Viva Farms is exploring his options in the event his business is adversely affected by the limitations sought by the residents, which could include moving part of the business out of the County.

**New Business**

**Chairman Bill Dorland** announced the meeting for Complete Community Survey and Infill Development Standards Workshop on October 3 at the Monarch Dunes at 6:30. He urged everyone to attend and to invite other residents of the area.

Chairman Bill Dorland also said it had been brought to his attention that our web-site is not up to date. There is a web-site committee consisting of Rick Dean, Vince McCarthy, and Bonnie Eisner. Bill will email Rick Dean and find out if the committee is still in existence and can address the update issues.

**Land Use Committee:– Istar Holliday** no further report

**Traffic and Circulation Committee:– Dan Woodson** said the Willow Interchange is on schedule to open around the middle of October.

Dan said the plan for street improvement according to Don Spanado of Public Works is as follows:

2014: Division St, Frontage Rd, Mary St. and Tefft

2015: Oakglen and Thompson

**PM10 :– Patricia Duron** had to leave earlier in the meeting but said there was no further report.

**Parks Committee:– Clyde Cruise** said there was no further report

Next meeting will be October 22, 2012. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.