

ANTELOPE VALLEY

Regional Planning Advisory Committee

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Draft Minutes

Antelope Valley Regional Planning Advisory Committee
September 7, 2023 - 6:30 p.m. Antelope Valley Community Center, Walker,
California

Attending:

RPAC: RPAC: Bruce Woodworth, Katy Buell, Mark Langner, Eric Edgerton, John Vannoy, Debi Bush, Sally Rosen, Jim Ricks.
County and Agency: Doug Power (USMC), Wendy Sugimura (MC), Rob Makoske (MC), John Peters (MCBOS), Sandra Moberly (MC), Paul (MC), Lianne Talbot (CalTrans), Neal Peacock (CalTrans), Andy (CalTrans)
Bassalt (CalTrans), Mike Ritter (CHP).
Public: Four.

Public comment (for items not on agenda):

The Medical Clinic was discussed. They have some funding for rebuilding but are hoping to receive a 2.5 million dollar grant. Art Sam is the new Tribal Chairman.

Jim Ricks was introduced as a new member of the RPAC.

Action Items

Approve minutes of August 3, 2023. Motion (Bruce/Debi) passed with one abstention.

WORKSHOP: Walker Main Street (Wendy Sugimura/Caltrans staff)

Wendy presented an overview of past concerns about local traffic issues and reviewed the Main Street Policy and Community Design Concepts. Wendy reported that the County (with the Eastern Sierra Counsel on Governments) is working on a large traffic planning grant.

Mike Ritter (CHP) discussed the role of the CHP and the local patrol area. He talked about enforcement and crash statistics. He said that staffing levels are below full. Bruce asked about photo enforcement; the CHP does not support this technique. Debi said that the CHP is doing a good job and that the problem lies with the highway itself. A public member asked about a decoy patrol car: CHP does not support this technique. Mark said that because the CHP and CalTrans do not live here they do not see the problem (speeding and illegal passing) that people in town regularly do. Mike said that he does see a problem with speeding and passing in Walker.

A team of Caltrans representatives presented a 'general conditions' overview which included speed and traffic volume information. They discussed a camera study that was conducted in Walker in February 2023 which showed no illegal

passing in town; the timing and validity of this study was questioned by several RPAC members. Bike lanes, pedestrian beacons, traffic islands, rumble strips, signs, striping and lane reconfiguration were discussed as possible solutions to the problem. Kati said that the speed limit needed to be reduced; CalTrans believes that the speed limit is appropriate for the situation. Debi said that existing speed limit signs need to be improved or moved. Lianne said that near term safety funding for fast-track improvements is possible and that Caltrans is examining possible actions including new signs, making the two-way left turn lanes narrower, lane painting, rumble strips, traffic islands, crosswalks, bike lane buffers, recessed pavement markers with the goal of trying to make drivers realize that they are entering and community and need to slow down and drive safely. Members of the RPAC were concerned that crosswalks without lights are dangerous. Bruce expressed concern with the process - that CalTrans made decisions about this before there was any community input; Wendy said that available money sources sometimes impact project timelines in inconvenient ways. The awarding of the grants for the fast-track safety money is a month away while the decision on the state grant is several months away.

Informational/Discussion items

Monthly reports

RPAC member reports/comments:

Debi reported on a recent meeting with Representative Kiley and the Chamber of Commerce (the general public was not invited) and that 130 people have signed up for the ATV Jamboree. Katy reported that 7 people showed up for the recent Mountain Gate clean-up.

MWTC update (Doug Power): Rob reported (for Doug) that there will be training at the base on 9/11 that will involve road barricades.

USFS update: John reported that interviews have been completed for the BPDR District Ranger position.

Supervisor's Report (John Peters): John said that a new CAO, IT director and Facility Superintendent are on staff. County Budget approval is scheduled for next week. Sandra Moberly, the new CAO, introduced herself.

Planning update (Staff): Wendy reported that planning staffing levels are still low; out of seven positions only 2.5 are filled.

Draft minutes submitted by Mark Langner.

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