



August 8, 2024

Supervisor Lynda Hopkins
County of Sonoma
575 Administration Drive, Room 100 A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

RE: 2023 Annual Report

Dear Supervisor Hopkins,

The Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council (LRRMAC) had a productive and eventful year, actively engaging the community and addressing numerous issues. This annual report summarizes the council's key activities, discussions, and decisions over the past year. Throughout the year, LRRMAC remained dedicated to addressing the concerns of the Lower Russian River community. Through regular monthly meetings, community engagement, and collaboration with local and state officials, the council worked diligently to improve the quality of life for residents.

February 16, 2023: Roads Update

- Officer elections were conducted, with Pip Marquez de la Plata elected as Chair and Lisa Nahmanson as Vice Chair.
- Discussions included updates on road repairs and paving in the Lower Russian River area, the Moscow Rd. project, and the Forestville Front Street sidewalk project.
- The Community Clean Up Ad Hoc committee provided updates on connecting with more groups for clean-up events.
- Introductions and Oath of Office for new council representatives and alternates.

March 22, 2023: Vacation Rentals & Rural Broadband

- Public comments emphasized the importance of public involvement and the need for hybrid meeting technology.
- Supervisor Lynda Hopkins discussed the housing element, road funding issues, and updates on emergency financial assistance following January storms.
- Updates on the vacation rental ordinance and rural broadband were provided.
- The Communications Ad Hoc committee outlined goals for facilitating access to MAC meetings and increasing awareness in the community.

April 13, 2023: Resource Guide for Municipal Issues: Who to call

- Formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to develop a River MAC Land Acknowledgment.
- The Communications Ad Hoc committee proposed three initiatives, including designating Summer 2023 as LRRMAC Awareness Summer and committing to participation at local farmers markets.
- Updates on the governance study

May 11, 2023: IOLERO & Fire Season Readiness

- Public comments addressed issues related to the Russian River Sanitation District rate increase, homeless encampments, and code enforcement.
- Supervisor Hopkins provided updates on the Local Coastal Plan, housing element, wastewater regulations, and various county initiatives.

June 9, 2023: SocoConnect

- Public comments highlighted concerns about local infrastructure and public safety.
- Discussions on the summer outreach initiatives and participation in local events to increase community engagement.

July 13, 2023: Decommissioning of Potter Valley Dam

- The council discussed amendments to the bylaws and the importance of effective communication with the community.
- The Communications Ad Hoc committee outlined plans for outreach at local farmers markets and other community events.

August 24, 2023: Joint meeting with Coast MAC | Town Hall with Senator Mike McGuire

- The councils approved bylaws amendments

September 14, 2023: Overview of Scoping for Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (DSEIR) for Canyon Rock Asphalt Facility

October 12, 2023: PG & E Presentation on Unscheduled Power Outages & More

November 9, 2023: Presentation on Firewise Communities

Ad Hoc Committees

The Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council (LRRMAC) established several ad hoc committees in 2023 to address specific community issues and initiatives. These committees were instrumental in fostering community engagement, addressing local concerns, and advancing the council's objectives. Each ad hoc committee's efforts and achievements are detailed below. These ad hoc committees have made significant contributions to the community through targeted initiatives and active

engagement. The council extends its gratitude to all members and volunteers who contributed to these successes.

Land Acknowledgement Ad Hoc Committee

Chair: Lisa Nahmanson

Members: Vicki Clewes, Patty Thayer

Objectives:

- Educate on the purpose and impact of land acknowledgements.
- Coordinate with county legal and NGO resources.
- Connect with local tribes and MACs to broaden committee membership.

Results:

- Met periodically to discuss strategies and actions.
- Initiated outreach to the Coastal MAC to include members from the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians.
- Continued efforts to engage local tribes through organizations like the Redbud Resource Group and Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods.

Community Clean Up Ad Hoc Committee

Chair: Lisa Nahmanson

Members: Vesta Copestakes, Vicki Clewes, Carol Shumate, Lupe Catalan, Debbie Ramirez

Objectives:

- Collaborate with District 5 staff and the Communications Ad Hoc to develop community clean-up resources.
- Add clean-up guides in English and Spanish to the LRRMAC website.

Results:

- Created a "How to Do a Community Clean Up" document.
- Conducted clean-ups in several locations, including Downtown Forestville and the Guerneville Park and Ride.
- Secured county translations for documents.
- Acknowledged the support from various county departments and community volunteers.

Communications Ad Hoc Committee

Chair: Joe Rogoff

Members: Betsy Van Dyke, Patty Thayer, Vicki Clewes

2023 Accomplishments:

- Met monthly and attended 24 community events to enhance engagement.
- Developed a banner and equipment kit for tabling at events.
- Created an events calendar and a community organization contact spreadsheet.
- Introduced bilingual informational materials and added a community engagement requirement to MAC job descriptions.

Recommended 2024 Goals:

- Increase media coverage and connect more with the Spanish-speaking community.
- Continue event engagement and expand geographically.
- Engage all MAC members in community outreach.
- Finalize budget and design for MAC promotional items.

Land Use Standing Committee

Chair: Michael Nicholls

Members: Lisa Nahmanson, Patty Thayer, Joe Rogoff and Herman J. Hernandez*

* non-MAC, Community Member

Activities:

- Addressed land use issues, including Moscow Road repairs and housing developments.
- Facilitated public input on significant projects such as the Guerneville Park Hotel and the Housing Element Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR).

Challenges:

- Managed truncated notifications and scheduling constraints to comply with the Brown Act.
- Worked to consolidate feedback from multiple stakeholders and coordinate timely responses to Permit Sonoma.

2023 MAC Membership included the following Representatives:

Vesta Copestakes

Forestville

Lisa Nahmanson

Forestville

Joe Rogoff

Guerneville

Nic Pereira

Guerneville

Betsy Van Dyke

Guerneville South / Pocket Canyon

Cynthia Strecker

Monte Rio / Villa Grande

Mike Nicholls

Cazadero / Duncans Mills

Vicki Clewes

Hacienda

Pip Marquez de la Plata

Rio Nido

And Alternates:

Lucy Hardcastle

Forestville

Brian Andriola

Hacienda (start: 11/28)

Kathleen Dahl

Guerneville

Patty Thayer

Monte Rio / Villa Grande

Tony Goodwin

Cazadero / Duncans Mills

Jenn Otten

Rio Nido (start: 7/11)

Greg Hennig

Guerneville South / Pocket Canyon

The Lower Russian River Municipal Advisory Council has had a productive year filled with meaningful community engagement. The council's commitment to addressing local issues through collaborative efforts and active participation has resulted in positive outcomes for the Lower Russian River community.

The establishment and successes of various ad hoc committees, the involvement of dedicated representatives and alternates, and the ongoing dialogue with local and state officials underscore the council's dedication to enhancing the quality of life for residents. We look forward to continuing this momentum in the current year and remain steadfast in our mission to serve and support our community. Thank you for your continued support and guidance.

Sincerely,

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