



North Sonoma Valley Municipal Advisory Council 2023 Annual Report

Prepared by Kate Eagles, Chair, and Patricia Galindo, Vice-Chair

Summary

The North Sonoma Valley Municipal Advisory Council (NSV MAC) ended 2022 by approving a fourth letter pertaining to the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) site plan, as submitted to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors in December. This followed three previous letters of comment sent in 2022, one to the Board and two to Permit Sonoma, reflecting the NSV MAC community's significant interest in the planning and environmental impact report (EIR) process for the SDC.

The NSV MAC hosted nine regular meetings in 2023, and one special meeting reflecting a combined November / December meeting. The March meeting was cancelled because of last-minute presenter cancellations. As of April 2023, in accordance with California state law, meetings were conducted in person first at the Kenwood Fire Department and then at the Kenwood Depot, with the ongoing option for remote participation via Zoom. Community participation ranged from just few attendees to approximately 15.

The NSV MAC had eight of its nine seats filled throughout much of 2023, and seven of its nine seats filled by the end of the year. In September of 2023, Councilmember Martin Peña joined the NSV MAC as a Kenwood area representative. In December, Councilmember Susan Oldroyd resigned from the NSV MAC. In August, Councilmember Vicki Handron decided not to seek another NSV MAC term. Kate Eagles continued in her role Chair with Patricia Galindo elected as Vice Chair upon Handron's departure. In addition to Eagles and Galindo, NSV MAC members as of 12/31/23 include Arthur Dawson, Matthew Dickey, Angela Nardo-Morgan, Mark Newhouser, and Martin Peña.

The NSV MAC is seeking two members to fill its open seats, with the MAC changing its by-laws in December of 2023 to allow for the inclusion of a youth member to fill one of those seats.

In terms of 2023 ad hoc committees, the existing Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) ad hoc sunset in 2023. Ad hoc committees as of December 31 include Community Improvement



(Mark Newhouser, Patricia Galindo), Youth Member Outreach (Matthew Dickey, Angela Nardo Morgan), Sonoma County Strategic Plan (Martin Peña, Kate Eagles, Mark Newhouser), Transportation (Arthur Dawson).

County Public Works followed up on a suggestion from the Transportation Committee to switch the northbound pedestrian crosswalk sign on Arnold (hidden behind a tree just before the Sonoma Creek bridge) with the bike lane sign immediately to the south. This resulted in much better visibility for the crosswalk sign and a noticeable slowing of northbound traffic when a pedestrian was visible in the crosswalk (Dawson, personal observations 12+ times per week).

Improved outreach to improve meeting attendance and participation has been identified as an ongoing need. The NSV MAC members continued to discuss how best to approach this issue.

The NSV MAC hosted presentations by county agencies and local organizations throughout the year. A full meeting list is provided below, highlighting the primary presenter(s) or activity from each meeting.

2023 Meeting List

January 18, 2023

- Sonoma County Regional Parks: Bike Trails

February 15, 2023

- Arnold Drive: Bike Lanes
- 810 West Agua Caliente Road, Sonoma: Potential Development (Hanna Center)
- North Sonoma Valley MAC 2022 Annual Report

March 15, 2023

- Meeting canceled.

April 19, 2023

- Sonoma Water Sanitation Budget Presentation
- District 1 Planning Commissioners Presentation

May 17, 2023

- Dunbar Elementary School Acknowledgement
- Community Improvement Projects Ad Hoc
- NSV MAC Norms & Expectations
- NSV MAC Meeting Date, Location, Format, Community Engagement

June 20, 2023

- Permit Sonoma Fire Prevention Division Chipper Program
- Glen Ellen Forum

July 18, 2023

- Sonoma County Energy Independence Program (SCEIP)



August 15, 2023

- Creative Sonoma: Draft Public Art Plan
- North Sonoma Valley MAC Youth Engagement

September 19, 2023

- Sonoma County Fire Chiefs' Associations (SCFCA) Sales Tax Measure and Fire Season Update
- Sonoma County Public Infrastructure: Pedestrian Safety
- Election of Chair & Vice Chair

October 17, 2023

- Sonoma County Library: BiblioBus
- North Sonoma Valley MAC Youth Engagement
- North Sonoma Valley MAC Meeting Schedule and Frequency

November 21, 2023

- Meeting canceled.

December 12, 2023 (Special Meeting)

- SCTA/RCPA Active Transportation Plan Update
- Glen Ellen Development & Design Guidelines Review
- North Sonoma Valley MAC Youth Engagement – Bylaw Update

December 19, 2023

- Meeting canceled.

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