



The voice of our community

Board Meeting
March 10, 2026 – 4:00 PM
MINUTES

In-Person at the Montecito Community Hall/Library
And Virtually Via Zoom

I. Call to Order at 4:02 PM by Chair Macfadyen. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Present: Albertson, Bode, Bollay, Craigie, Denson, Duran, Gherson, Herting, Lundgren, Macfadyen, Pennino, Prince, Serrani, White

Absent: Hedrick, Rockenbach, Wittman

II. Approval of February 10, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

Bollay/Denson

Motion Approved

III. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda-

David Howe – new member, resident on Hodges Ln – concern about parking along Hwy 192 between Hodges and the Upper Village

IV. President’s Report- President Bill Macfadyen reported on a recent site visit to Lotusland, where construction is underway on a major water conservation project that includes excavation for a one-million-gallon underground water storage tank. The project is expected to be completed by mid-July.

V. Executive Director Report- Houghton Hyatt-Reported that the Montecito Association continues to see strong momentum in its membership drive and urged everyone to log into montecitoassociation.org to make sure their membership is current.

VI. Treasurer Report- Membership is strong – in the first two months of 2026, we are at 22% of our annual budget. We continue to keep driving membership this year through events, community participation and business memberships.

IV. Community Reports

Chair Macfadyen Chair Macfadyen, on behalf of the Board, announced the recognition of Fire Chief Neels, who will retire at the end of March after serving as Montecito Fire Chief since 2023. Board members and community partners praised his leadership and dedication to the Montecito community. In appreciation of his service, the Association presented Chief Neels with a watercolor print of the historic Montecito firehouse weathervane.

Roy Lee, 1st District Supervisor-Aida Thau, Chief of Staff, shared updates. The new pickleball court at Upper Manning Park is now open and a ribbon-cutting ceremony will be scheduled soon with County Parks and the Montecito Association. California Highway Patrol has increased enforcement along San Ysidro Road to San Leandro Lane in response to community concerns about speeding. Recent patrols resulted in several citations, and continued enforcement is expected to help deter speeding in the area.

Montecito Fire Dept.-Chief Neels-provided an update on fire road repairs and trail access challenges in the front country following recent storms. Damage on the fire road near Hot Springs has been repaired, restoring 2.2 miles of access from the Hot Springs Trailhead to San Ysidro Creek. Challenges remain at creek crossings where debris flows created drop-offs as deep as 25–30 feet. The department is coordinating with the County, Southern California Edison, and the U.S. Forest Service to restore emergency access and support ongoing trail restoration efforts.

Montecito Union School-Superintendent Anthony Ranii shared several updates from the campus, highlighting recent student activities. Sixth graders recently departed for Wolf Camp, while kindergarten students are preparing community helper presentations with participation from parents and local community members. Second graders have been studying water erosion on campus and proposing solutions as “citizen scientists.”

V. Agenda HWY 101 Project Update: Kirsten Ayars Highway 101 Construction: Final Segment Begins Representatives from the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments presented plans for the final phase of the Highway 101 Santa Barbara North Segment Project, which will begin construction in spring 2026. Improvements include new carpool lanes, a complete rebuild of the Cabrillo Boulevard interchange, two new freeway bridges, updated freeway ramps, and improved traffic circulation. Landscaping with drought-tolerant plantings will also be incorporated where space allows. Major milestones include bridge construction through summer 2027, ramp construction through summer 2028, and final landscaping expected in 2029.

Land Use: The Executive Committee discussed changing the name of LUC to Community and Government Relations Committee (CGRC), reflecting its evolving role in coordinating with government agencies and engaging the community on key policy issues. Many issues to address include master plan, height limits, pathways, and leaf blowers.

Motion to rename the Land Use Committee to the Community and Government Relations Committee

Bollay/Bode

Motion Approved

Events: Mindy Denson (Chair) Planning is underway for the Montecito Village Fourth of July Parade. Volunteers are welcome to participate. Plan to host an event with the Miramar hotel for launch of new Sheriff substation.

History: Leslie Lundgren (Chair) Working on sprucing up the community room with paint, pictures and new chairs.

Outreach: Laura Bode (Chair) The primary focus is to increase membership and maintain members. Will create members-only events, building relationships with community leaders through upcoming events, including a spring wine and cheese gathering and additional donor engagement opportunities throughout the year.

Safety Response: They do not recommend moving forward with license plate reader systems at this time due to cost, legal concerns, and limited usefulness for solving local crimes.

Hands Across Montecito: New signage is being installed at Butterfly Beach prohibiting sleeping or camping from sunset to 6 a.m., allowing the Sheriff’s Office to enforce the ordinance if necessary. CityNet and Earthcomb will present a comprehensive update on local outreach efforts at the next meeting.

X. Old Business-None

XI. New Business- Support letter for NCAR – motion was made – Duran/Rockenbach Motion Approved

Adjourned 6:24 p.m.