

WONDER VALLEY CSA

WONDER VALLEY COMMUNITY MEETING

Wednesday, September 4, 2019, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.,

Wonder Valley Community Center, 80526½ Amboy Road, Wonder Valley, CA 92277

Wonder Valley MAC Delegate and Meeting Chair: Steve Reyes

Everyone is invited and welcome to attend and participate.

NOTES

1. Call to order and flag salute (Please mute your cell phones.) 11:08 a.m.

PRESENT (39): Ken and Teresa Sitz, Susan Schaffner, Larry LeVoir, Katherine Halchishk, Lyn Healy, Al Loup, Billy Pitman, Lucas Niles (SBC SD), Georgene Shelton, Diane Mitchell, Kim Pope (Base), Jonell Kosen (Base), Japhy Grant, Mary Quamme, Burt Wintzler, Sandra Claw, Chris Veit, Mark Lundquist (3rd District Sup Office), Bob Rowell, Deb Tobin, Ted Meyers, Bill and Sherry Hague, Florrie Holloway, Dave Al? Eric Hamburg, Alexa, M Hawkings, John Bradford (SDD) Ed Vallerand, Paul Pearson, Blance Martinez, Dylan Baudouine (SDD), Adrian Field, Emanuel Popa, Darin Clarkson, Sunny Downer, 1 additional Sheriff's Deputy.

2. Reports and Presentations

- a. **John Bradshaw and Dylan Baudouine - grader.** John introduced our new grader driver - Dylan Baudouine, said he started on September 3rd, and they're trying to get back on schedule.
- b. **Mark Lundquist,** Field Aide to 3rd District Supervisor Dawn Rowe
Issue of short term rentals. In Lucerne Valley they're saturated with vacation rentals (VRs). Planning commission is taking recommendations, videoconferenced at 9 a.m., September 5, in Joshua Tree. Can comment there.
Teresa - Where is it on the agenda -- early or later?
ML - Only thing on the agenda.
Al Loup - What's the text in red on the draft ordinance?
ML - Red means a change in the ordinance, it's what the planning commission is looking at. Black is virtually accepted. Then the BOS needs to pass it.
Specifically designed for desert area. Basically same as mountain area, but with changes specific to the desert.
LeVoir - Does it address camping on vacant land.
ML - It's not addressed in the ordinance, it's just plain illegal. Campers, motor homes, tents, etc., totally illegal. Met with HipCamp, told them we were not

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interested in working with them. Asked them to cease and desist. Call our office if you find this kind of camping happening, we'll get Code Enforcement on it. People were coming out of the park and camping on vacant land wherever they wanted. There was a sweep of Section 6.

Ted Meyers - What about people with motorhomes, no trash, no facilities?

ML - It's illegal, call Code Enforcement (CE). There's a phone app, search SBCODE, follow the instructions. You'll need to take a picture, and send it in. Better than calling or writing in. CE is overburdened with about 500-1000 open cases.

Eric Hamburg - I've used the app a couple of times, and through the web form. Never got a response of any kind. The process could be improved with some sort of follow up.

ML - Good point.

LeVoir - As far as trash dumping goes, our experience with CE has been good. Won't come out for a couple of tires -- need more trash to come out. But they come out quickly, within a couple of weeks.

D'Anne - CE personnel recommends that tourists camp on BLM land. Visitors need more guidelines.

ML - I will get together with BLM and CE and make sure they're coordinating.

Ed V - is there a BLM map so people know where to camp, and to stay out of residential areas?

ML - We can ask. BLM only has one officer for this entire area.

Next issue: FP5 (creation of Fire Protection District 5 with a \$157 tax) On September 24 it will be coming before the Board of Supervisors (BOS). There's a mandate to County Fire and the SBC CEO to come back with another plan that the BOS will discuss. Not a board meeting but will be broadcast at the videoconferencing center.

Ed V - Will FP5 be on the ballot?

ML - We don't know if the CEO will make that recommendation. They need to cover a deficit of \$27 million. BOS doubles as Fire Board for County Fire. Should have been on the ballot in the first place. Hope it gets fixed so they stop pulling money from the general fund.

LeVoir - But the \$157 assessment will appear on next tax bill, but maybe not going forth?

ML - Yes.

Ed V - You can put your properties together if they're adjacent - it costs \$100. So you pay tax for one property instead of two. Too late for this year. Do it by December for next year. SBC, however recommended waiting for decision.

EH - May as well consolidate to save on all the other taxes.

ML - Interesting point. About \$1700 to merge to properties -- then you have 1 property tax. Need to calculate your return on investment to see how long it will

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take to make it worth it.

c. **San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department**

Lt. Lucas Niles (XO) , Asst. Commanding Officer of Morongo Station. Niles has been out here 20 years with his family.

Captain couldn't come, he wanted to share some exciting news. Sgt. Hankey acquired triple the funds for illegal OHV enforcement. What does that mean? A lot more enforcement activity. 2700 square miles in the unincorporated areas of the County. Some of the grant will go for vehicles, but most of it needs to go for staffing.

D'Anne - We have signs posted through the area.

Niles - Yes, they worked out the language, Morongo put up 4 signs. Keeps honest people honest. A lot of the offenders just don't understand the rules. The other 10% don't care about the rules. These are the one we're focused on. Grant doesn't allow for signs.

Ted - People usually just shoot the signs.

Niles - We're gearing up for the break in the weather. Expecting OHV and shooting.

DA - There were problems this weekend with illegal OHV riding. The dispatcher told us it was a CHP violation.

Niles - Yes, they're responsible. Still call us. Good for us to know. If enforcement unit is not available, we still compile the data to determine where and when we'll send enforcement in the future.

Alexa - How much more staffing will you hire?

Niles - None. It will be done on overtime. That's the requirement. Gov't. won't give us money for a new position. You have to fund a new position all the way through to retirement and this grant is year by year.

EH - The CHP has jurisdiction on county service roads?

Niles - Yes. CHP has jurisdiction in the unincorporated communities.

EH - What about OHV riding across checkerboard. [Much of the Morongo Basin is a "checkerboard" of interspersed private and BLM land.]

Niles - Call the CHP. But call us, too.

Pearson - What about trespassing?

Niles - No. Only if you told them to leave and they wouldn't, or no trespassing signs properly posted every 25', or if they cross a barrier. We voted for all the people that wrote theses laws.

All the calls that came in, they helped with the increased grant. The people who give the money came out. We took her on a helicopter ride and showed her the extent of the problem.

EH - From a PR standpoint it would be much nicer if dispatchers didn't make the caller feel like they called the wrong number.

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Niles - Call the non-emergency number during normal business hours. (760) 366-4175. They will give an incident number **if requested**. On weekends call go into a trunk call log, may get someone who doesn't understand our area.

LeVair - You can bust someone on private property if they don't have permission.

Niles - Yes, the SD piggybacks on CE and old staging laws. Always better off calling the Sheriff's department.

ML - The signs were funded through the discretionary fund from Supervisor's office. County public works will give you criteria for sign and you can take it and have it made. It doesn't cost much.

Niles - The deputies have been educated, they know now. They've had classes.

DM - I have a friend who made a sign that worked. It said, "Caution, rattlesnake infested area."

[laughter]

Reyes - Some people are worried about calling SD.

Niles - They can make an anonymous call, depending on what you're calling about, might need to give your name. Can specify do not want deputy contact, or always say, call me by phone.

TS - Can anything be done about all the new grow houses?

Niles - Call SD. There are big problems with marijuana everywhere. Problem is it is only a misdemeanor. Can't enforce on private property. Marijuana team in the county serving endless search warrants through the day. They watch the properties until they reach felony level.

Reyes - It's unfair to dump it all on law enforcement. We made it legal, can't expect them to take care of it all.

EH - What about illegal shooting?

Niles - Call us.

EH - We've been calling since 2016. This Saturday morning, a deputy confronted 3 marines, issued a warning citation.

Jonell Kosen (Base) - The base has constant classes in shooting, welcome aboard brief. If it is a marine, please, do give them a citation.

Pearson - Isn't there a gun shop on the base?

JK - Yes.

Pearson - Are they informed to tell them where they can and can't shoot?

JK - Yes. Unless we catch them in the act, we cannot reprimand them.

Ted - A lot of the shooting is from visitors from LA. There was a club near here. They were shooting machine guns. SD took care of it.

Pearson - The area at Valle Vista and Pinto Mountain is a constant problem.

DA - There was a shooting incident in our neighborhood. SD incredible in following up. Captain went out of his way to make sure it stopped.

George - SUVs with tables set up shooting into valley on other side of the Pole Line signs. How do we geo-locate areas not necessarily on the grid and inform

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SD?

Niles - Give them the closest cross street. Get me within 4 blocks of it.

George - It's a hot spot.

LeVair - Isn't Pole Line legal?

Niles - It's a wilderness area.

Alexa - The grant doesn't cover shooting?

Niles - No, just OHV. It's funded by registration fees to register OHVs.

JK - There's a flier, increased training, noise issues.

CV - Do we get compensated for living with all the noise? I call that number and get so much hesitation from the person on the line. I pay for that. Why is it always around the holidays? You just had one military exercise, and now you're having another one. Noise pollution. I understand that a lot of people are gung ho.

Jonel - This is a federal installation used to train military personnel.

CV - Have people come out with sound meters?

JK - I'm a resident here. Been here many years, also a marine. Last noise study was 2012, doing another one shortly. We try our best to keep the noise to a minimum. The exercises now involve a lot of rushing in - person to person, artillery support. They need realistic live fire.

CV - Why don't they do it on the other side, where no one lives.

JK - They're designated areas determined by environmental assessment. We need areas where we can have tanks, closed air support, artillery.

Ted - I don't see a problem. They have to train. No problem.

SH - I've lived out here since 85, realized it was right next to base. It's the sound of freedom. If I was so concerned about the noise I wouldn't buy the property. If you don't want the noise, don't live here.

JK - We're working with real estate agencies to get something in writing for the potential property buyers.

We do apologize, do try to keep it at a minimum. We don't do it during the summer because it's too hot. We'll be starting back up again in October.

Teresa - Can you give us the number for reporting noise?

JK - (760) 830-9222

- d. **Community Center Report**, WVCC Coordinator Teresa Sitz will report
Teresa updated the community on the future rehab of the kitchen, bathrooms, and utility room. She reported on the Simi Dabah sculpture that will be placed in front of the building.
- e. **Friends of Wonder Valley**, Chairman Ken Sitz will report
Ken Sitz reported on the first anniversary of Friends of Wonder Valley, and the acquisition of a raffle license. He reported that the FOWV is trying to apply for a bingo license, and to create a Memorandum of Understanding with the SBC

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Special Districts Department for the creation of an emergency food bank. He also said they plan to start a legacy program with Pat Rimmington, Florrie Holloway, and Steve Reyes.

LeVoir - Asked about Tom Marshall from County Fire possibly leasing fire property in Wonder Valley to FOWV.

Ken Sitz - Over the years we've asked several times, asked for food bank storage, corner office for MMU, looking at it now, will know within six months.

LeVoir - Why the secrecy?

Ken Sitz - They hadn't talked to us.

LeVoir - The fire property was leased from CSA 70 M. It belongs to us, not to County Fire. They can't legally lease it to anyone.

3. Community comment on items not on the agenda

The community is also invited to comment after each report and during discussions listed below.

Ted - There are more vacant houses, trashed. Two big trucks came in and took everything out of the house - everyone's property has trash all over it. Bank owns it.

LL - Regarding leasing the fire property. I'm all for FOWV getting the use of the space, though CF doesn't own any property here. All owned by CSA 70M.

Teresa Sitz (secretary of FOWV) - I've worked for CSA 70 M for going on 2 years. You know this building. If we use it we have to pay for it. If a yoga teacher comes in they have to become a County Contractor. If we can lease the property through County Fire I'm pretty sure it will be a regular lease and we will have control over how we use the property. I'm hoping we'll have a meeting room we can use for activities.

When the article came out in the paper, we didn't know they were talking about Friends of Wonder Valley. I called and Tom said, "Yes, it's you." So I sent in additional paperwork, but there really haven't been any discussions. All we know is that they'll let us know sometimes in the next six months. We really haven't had anything TO tell anyone.

Adrian - Regarding road maintenance - who do we talk to?

Steve - Teresa?

Teresa - Go to WonderValley.org, click on the [RESOURCES] tab. Scroll to the road repair form and fill that out. Or go to: <https://tinyurl.com/fixmyroad>

Alexa - I believe we're paying an extra tax for the fire residence.

Reyes - Teresa does an excellent job.

4. Ongoing Business

- a. **Discussion and possible action:** Shall the community endorse the delegate's MAC Report to be read at the MAC meeting on Monday, September 9, 2019? (See page 2.)
- b. **Neighborhood Security**, Steve Reyes
Crime stats and Neighborhood Watch

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Reyes - We all know who the bad guys are. On Sunday I went to Neighborhood Watch meeting near Godwin. There were about a dozen people present.

AL - The neighbors construction tools and 5 motorcycles were stolen, but they got everything back. They ran them down and called the sheriff. Is anyone interested in doing a NW?

[Many hands were raised.]

Reyes - In this case the neighbors noticed, called the SD. Our problem is that we're so spread out.

DA - We tried to report but couldn't take a trespass report without the neighbor's complaint.

Reyes - I looked into 3rd party notices. SD said they didn't want to deal with it.

Levoir - Email me and I'll send you the info I gave Teresa a couple years back.

AL - If you use the phrase "crime in progress" they'll come out even if you're not the owner.

Reyes - Hi-Desert keepers came out. I'm going to join the board and will get them out here to do cleanups.

5. Agenda planning

The community is invited to suggest items to place on the next meeting agenda.

Reyes - Ms. Rowe (3rd District Supervisor) is coming here on September 7. Very supportive, knows what the issues are.

LeVoor - Let's discuss the trespassing issue with her, so we can get 3rd party notices.

6. Announcements - None

7. Adjournment

- a. Who would like to say, "I move to adjourn?"

12:35 Ted Meyers

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Morongo Basin Municipal Advisory Council

Report for Wonder Valley, Steve Reyes, September 9, 2019

We had a community meet-and-greet on Saturday, August 10, with 20 people present.

In August we distributed 89 USDA boxes of food serving around 145 Wonder Valley residents. Special thanks to our many volunteers who put in a total of 50 hours, processing 3,412 pounds of food. The next USDA Food Distribution is Tuesday, September 17, 2019.

The sad news came to us that County Fire will not be reopening our fire station. They are planning to lease some of the property to a nonprofit and are in negotiations. The name of the non-profit has not been released.

Special Districts Department secured a grant to rebuild our kitchen and bathrooms, bringing them up to grade. It will take some time, but will be a long-awaited improvement for our community.

For more information about what's happening in Wonder Valley, please visit WonderValley.org.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ou4oCoCI8rIuNXpOhu3RONhM9cpmdLX8iMOp-LjUd7Q/edit?usp=sharing>

<https://tinyurl.com/wv09042019>

NOTES posted 10:30 a.m., September 7, 2019

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cLsKP2cY-DeKEWUnckCF_uO_TL1g2K3Y2ZIZ1Sm7XOI/edit?usp=sharing

<https://tinyurl.com/wv09042019notes>

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