



MEMBERS OF THE BOARD
Michelle Santucci, Chair
Brianna Adams, Vice Chair
J.L. Diaz
Jane Nye
Bian Trushinski

REGULAR MEETING Minutes

January 29, 2026, 7:00 pm

Municipal Advisory Council Oak Park

Oak Park High School, Room G-9
899 North Kanan Road
Oak Park, CA 91377

WEB ACCESS

At: ventura.org/oakparkmac

MAC Calendar, Agenda, and Minutes

Welcome to the meeting of the Oak Park Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) an advisory council for the unincorporated area of Oak Park to Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorell.

LEGAL NOTICES

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PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment is the opportunity for members of the public to participate in meetings by addressing the Oak Park Municipal Advisory Council in connection with one or more agenda or non-agenda items. Public comments by a member of the public at a single meeting are limited to a cumulative total of five minutes at such meeting unless the time allotment is increased or decreased by the Chair depending on the number of speakers. The public comment period during the opening part of the meeting to address non-agenda items is limited to 30 minutes total for all speakers; this 30-minute limit does not apply to items on the agenda.

To maintain a public meeting environment conducive and welcoming to receiving public comments from all members of the public, the audience is discouraged from engaging in displays of support or opposition to staff reports or public comments, including clapping, yelling, booing, hissing or cheering, that may create a disruptive environment for members of the public wishing to participate. Any person who disrupts or impedes the orderly conduct of a meeting will be instructed to cease the disruptive conduct. Failure to do so may result in that person being removed from the meeting.

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Email or Mail Public Comment in Advance of the Meeting: If you wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item by email or mail, please submit your comment by 12:00 p.m. on the day prior to the meeting. Indicate in the Subject Line the Agenda item number (e.g., Item No. 9) on which you are commenting. Your email or written comment will be distributed to the Municipal Advisory Council and placed into the item's record for the minutes of the meeting. Public Comments submitted in writing are public records and

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In-Person Public Comment: If you would like to provide a verbal comment in person during the meeting, upon arrival at the meeting location, check in with staff and complete a comment card. When your name is called for public comment, please proceed to the podium. If you do not wish to pre-register but would like to provide in-person comments at the meeting, you must check in with the staff prior to the agenda item being called.

Video Recording – Live Stream Information of Meeting

View the meeting on the livestream at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/@vcd2super/streams>.

OPENING

1. Call to Order

Brian Trushinski called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Roll Call

Brian Trushinski, Michelle Santucci, JL Diaz, Brianna Adams, Jane Nye, and Student Representative Madeleine Kim present. Quorum met.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the USA led by Brian Trushinski.

4. Nominations & Election of 2026 Oak Park MAC Chair and Vice Chair.

Chair (2026): Motion by Jane Nye to elect Michelle Santucci as Chair, seconded by J. L. Diaz. Vote: All in favor.

Michelle Santucci thanked the Council for the vote of confidence and commended Brian Trushinski for his efforts, passion, and dedication to the Oak Park community, particularly regarding Medea Creek and landscape issues.

Vice Chair (2026): Motion by Jane Nye to elect Brianna Adams as Vice Chair, seconded by Michelle Santucci. Vote: All in favor.

5. Liaison designations for CSA 4 Landscape, Legislative, Oak Park Unified School District, Triunfo Water & Sanitation District and Oak Park Fire Safe Council.

- CSA 4 Landscape: J. L. Diaz
(Brian Trushinski stated he did not wish to serve in this role for 2026)
- Oak Park Unified School District: Brianna Adams
- Triunfo Water & Sanitation District: Jane Nye
- Legislative: Michelle Santucci
- Oak Park Fire Safe Council: Brian Trushinski

6. Approve Minutes of November 20, 2025, Meeting

Motion to approve made by Jane Nye, seconded by Brianna Adams.

J. L. Diaz recused himself as he was not present at the November 20 meeting.

Motion passes.

7. Agenda Review and Approval

Agenda reviewed. Two corrections were noted to the January 2026 tickler log, date on the Agenda reflects December 2025 and should be January 2026 and the spelling of Kai Luoma under Item 11, should be Luoma not Luamo.

8. Approve Consent Items

Reports were included as part of the final agenda packet.

Motion to approve Consent Items made by J. L. Diaz.

Brian Trushinski requested Item 8.f be pulled.

Motion seconded by Jane Nye.

Motion passes.

- a. Recommendation to Receive and Postpone to February 26, 2026, MAC Meeting: Draft Oak Park MAC 2025 Achievements and 2026 Work Plan

- b. Recommendation to Receive and Postpone to February 26, 2026, MAC Meeting: 2004 Arborist Study and June 2005 Recommendations to Oak Park MAC
- c. Recommendation to Receive and File: Ventura County Sheriff's Office Report
- d. Recommendation to Receive and File: California Highway Patrol Report
- e. Recommendation to Receive and File: Ventura County Fire Department Report
- f. Recommendation to Receive and File December 2025 and January 2026 CSA4 Report from Public Works & Landscape Company Mariposa
- g. Recommendation to Receive and File: December 2025 Oak Park MAC Tickler Log
- h. Recommendation to Receive and File: Letter from Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) Regarding Oak Park Community Services District Formation

9. Public Comments on issues not on the agenda - Citizen presentations regarding Oak Park Municipal Advisory Council related matters NOT appearing on this agenda. (See Guidelines above).

- Carolyn Bass
Bass stated she has lived in Oak Park for 46 years and expressed concern regarding the removal of a tree at Smoke Tree and Kanan Road. She requested clarification as to why the tree was removed.
 - Michelle Santucci
Santucci responded that the tree referenced was a mature olive tree with an approximate 30-inch diameter. She noted that the tree appeared healthy and that the removal appeared to be professionally done, with debris fully cleared. She stated the location was in the 200 block of Kanan Road, not in the center median. The matter has been reported and is currently under investigation.
 - Joel Goldes
Asked whether the olive tree was native and whether it posed a fire hazard. Requested clarification on the specific type of tree removed.
- Brian Mattson
Mr. Mattson commented that Mariposa Landscaping was trimming trees in the area and raised concerns regarding excessive signage at Kanan Road and

Lindero Canyon Road, including signage for a new nail shop with 24-hour operation and leasing signage located at the corner. He stated he believes there are too many signs in the area and that Code Enforcement should review the issue. He noted that he emailed Brian Trushinski regarding these concerns.

- RL Miller
 - Miller raised concerns regarding Bishop Gates Road, which runs parallel to Deer Hill Road/Doubletree Road. She stated that fire personnel should be able to access the road and questioned why there are locks on the gate restricting access. She also noted concerns regarding a pool of standing water at Kanan Road and Deerhill Road. Michelle Santucci Santucci stated that the gate issue is listed on the tickler log and clarified that the Fire Department has a key to the locked gate and will address the issue.
 - Brian Trushinski Trushinski stated that Public Works sent a crew to inspect the standing water area and confirmed the location falls under Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District jurisdiction.

- Joel Goldes Goldes commended the student representative for promoting volunteerism among fellow high school students. He referenced the Friends of Oak Park Open Space website as a source of information on volunteer opportunities. He raised concerns regarding front-door security, encouraging residents to spend more time in their front yards to help deter theft. He gave a positive comment regarding the trimming of eucalyptus trees on Rockfield Street and expressed concern about a company identified as Tree Scapes trimming oak trees for an HOA. He stated that oak trees should be protected.

Regular Agenda

8F. Pulled from consent. Brian Trushinski noted that the street sweeping vendor from July to January there are 2 September entries with the same codification but different values. He wants to understand the difference. Public Works noted they would look into this item and report back.

10. Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District (RSRPD District 5) Board Member Eric Lundstrom

Lundstrom provided an update on recent activities and initiatives of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District affecting Oak Park.

- Recently adopted the District budget calendar, which is publicly available on the RSRPD website and outlines dates for upcoming financial discussions and deliberations.
- At the most recent Board meeting, the District discussed a temporary easement deed with the Ventura County Watershed Protection District for water monitoring east of Lindero Canyon Road near Rhapsody Drive.
 - The easement term will be five years, with an option to extend an additional five years.
 - Watershed Protection District will fully fund the easement during the initial five-year period.
 - Data collected will be made available to the public to assess water quality conditions.
- Announced a \$3 million grant awarded for work along Medea Creek, funded by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and CAL FIRE.
- Provided an update on recent Finance Committee meetings, noting two meetings were held in Oak Park. Committee members include Ed Abel and Eric Lundstrom. A future meeting is scheduled for February 12 at the Rancho Simi office.
- Announced formation of a new Oak Park Committee intended to serve as a bridge between Rancho Simi and Oak Park community members.
 - First meeting scheduled for February 19 at 5:30 PM in the Buena Vista Room.
- Reported on Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service activities held in Oak Park, including three projects: curb painting, Oak Park Community Center beautification, and additional community service efforts. Volunteers were thanked.
- Announced the Oak Park Wellness Festival scheduled for March 21, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Oak Canyon Community Park. The event will focus on wellness, connection, and community engagement.

Council Discussion:

- J. L. Diaz thanked Mr. Lundstrom for holding Finance Committee meetings in Oak Park and for creating the Oak Park Committee. He expressed interest in having a MAC liaison attend future meetings.
- Brian Trushinski asked about the timeline for upcoming work at Medea Creek. Mr. Lundstrom stated that studies and reports would occur prior to construction, though no specific start date has been set.
- Mr. Trushinski also asked about Phase 2 work near Conifer Drive, emphasizing that the MAC's Long-Range Medea Creek Plan should be considered. Mr.

Lundstrom confirmed coordination among Rancho Simi, Public Works, Watershed Protection, and Friends of Oak Park, and agreed the plan is comprehensive.

- Jane Nye thanked Mr. Lundstrom for attending and expressed appreciation for increased transparency and the liaison concept.
- Michelle Santucci clarified that the primary concern of many residents relates to Medea Creek fire prevention/clean up, not park facilities.

Public Comment (related to Item 10):

- Joel thanked Mr. Lundstrom and supported the liaison concept. He asked whether invasive plants, including Washingtonia palms, were contributing to swampy conditions near Medea Creek/Lindero Canyon Road.
 - Mr. Lundstrom stated staff is actively monitoring the area to determine drainage solutions.
- Janet Jackson raised concerns about homes losing fire insurance following the 2018 fire, citing pine trees planted too close to residences. She expressed support for trees but stated pine trees may not be appropriate near homes.
- Tom Hansen asked whether Phase 2 work for Medea Creek extends to the Los Angeles County line, noting the importance of including that area.
 - Mr. Lundstrom noted his contact information is available on the Rancho Simi website for follow-up.

11. Presentations on Proposal to Establish an Oak Park Community Services District- The MAC will hear informational presentations regarding a citizen-led proposal to establish an Oak Park Community Services District. Presenters will provide an overview of the proposed district formation, the LAFCo process, and potential impacts to current service delivery and governance in Oak Park. This item is intended to provide background information and clarity for the community and to allow for public comment.

Presenters:

- Mark Perryman, Proponent
 - Presentation provided and entered into the record.
- Kai Luoma, Ventura County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)
 - Printed presentation provided.
- Joan Araujo, Ventura County Public Works
 - Verbal presentation (video referenced).

Mark Perryman – Proponent

Mr. Perryman provided an overview of the proposed Community Services District (CSD) concept. He stated that the proposal is not an effort to incorporate Oak Park as a city, but rather to explore whether certain services currently provided by Ventura County could be managed locally through a CSD. He noted that potential service areas

discussed include parks, landscape, and related maintenance functions. Mr. Perryman emphasized that the proposal remains in an early, exploratory phase, and that further analysis is required before any formal application is submitted.

Kai Luoma – Ventura County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)

Mr. Luoma provided a detailed explanation of the LAFCo review and approval process for forming a Community Services District. He explained that:

- There is no minimum population requirement, but a sufficient number of property owners must exist to support the district.
- Any application must clearly define the services to be provided, governance structure, and funding mechanisms.
- LAFCo cannot approve a proposal unless it demonstrates long-term financial sustainability and identifies funding sources for all proposed services.
- A CSD does not automatically receive all revenues currently used by the County to provide services.
- A CSD cannot simply assume County contracts and may be limited to contracting with public agencies rather than private providers.
- If a CSD becomes financially unviable, dissolution is a potential outcome under state law.

Mr. Luoma further noted that the application and review process typically exceeds one year, and that any assessments or taxes must be approved by voters.

Joan Araujo – Ventura County Public Works

Ms. Araujo provided an overview of current Public Works responsibilities in Oak Park and discussed how services such as landscape maintenance, stormwater infrastructure, and roadway maintenance are currently managed. She explained that Public Works would continue to provide services unless and until a new governance structure is approved and implemented.

Council Questions and Discussion

- J. L. Diaz asked whether a minimum number of residents is required to form a CSD. Mr. Luoma stated that while no minimum exists, the number of property owners must be adequate to support the district financially.
- Mr. Diaz also asked whether a CSD board would have authority to raise assessments. Mr. Luoma responded that any assessments require voter approval, and funding mechanisms must be identified at the time of formation.
- Brianna Adams asked about personnel and administrative costs, including whether additional staff would be required. Mr. Luoma stated that these costs

must be identified in the application and that LAFCo cannot approve a proposal without a clear funding plan.

- Brian Trushinski reiterated that the proposal does not involve incorporation, but instead focuses on separating out specific services currently provided by the County. He asked how County employees might interact with or serve a CSD. Mr. Perryman stated that legal counsel would be required to address those specifics.
- Jane Nye expressed concern regarding potential costs and election expenses and asked about the overall timeline. Mr. Perryman responded that the process is lengthy and that further information would be required before advancing.

Public Comment (30 Minutes)

- Andrew Pletcher, Newbury Park resident and attorney, stated that the community should avoid speaking in absolutes and keep an open mind during the due-diligence phase. He expressed support for exploring the proposal.
- Eric Steiner asked whether LAFCo approved other entities such as CSA 4 and Rancho Simi, and how financial deficits can occur despite approval. Mr. Luoma explained that LAFCo evaluates financial viability during formation and that a CSD must demonstrate adequate funding.
- Joel commented on the civic importance of the discussion and questioned whether precedent alone justifies forming a CSD.
- Ruben Macias stated he is still learning about the proposal but believes it is reasonable to explore if it could improve quality of life, provided all questions are addressed.
- Carolyn raised concerns regarding sidewalk maintenance and repairs.
- Additional public comments addressed the accuracy of social media polling, public correspondence related to LAFCo, and public communication surrounding the proposal. Mr. Luoma stated that LAFCo correspondence had been reviewed by legal counsel and remains accurate.

12. Written Comments from the Public & MAC Member Discussion

- Brian Trushinski stated he received written correspondence from Eric Steiner and Janna Orkney, both copied to staff, regarding issues on Hawthorne Drive.
- Michelle Santucci noted concerns related to water pooling near the location of a recently removed olive tree on Kanan. Further review is anticipated.

13. Office of Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorell's Comments – Brief announcements and report on County activities.

Supervisor Gorell was unable to attend the meeting and sent his regrets. It was reported that his wife recently underwent a medical procedure, and Supervisor Gorell remained with her during her recovery. She is recovering well.

Supervisor Gorell was recently selected as Chair of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, and he expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve in this leadership role.

The Supervisor recently hosted a bike safety event in Thousand Oaks that focused on promoting safe riding practices for residents of all ages. Local law enforcement agencies will continue efforts to improve bicycle safety through education and enforcement.

The Ventura County Board of Supervisors recently approved a permitting reform package aimed at increasing efficiency and improving responsiveness within the County's permitting process. The package is expected to return to the Board for further consideration in March.

Additionally, it was reported that more than \$650,000 was approved by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to support fire prevention projects in East County, enhancing wildfire resilience across affected communities.

14. Oak Park MAC Committee and Liaison Reports:

a. CSA 4 Landscape Committee – Brian Trushinski

Mr. Trushinski provided a brief report regarding CSA 4 landscape matters. Ongoing maintenance and service issues continue to be monitored, and items of concern are tracked through the MAC tickler log for follow-up with Public Works and the landscape contractor.

b. Legislative Committee – Michelle Santucci and Brian Trushinski

Ms. Santucci and Mr. Trushinski reported there were no legislative matters relevant to Oak Park. Legislative items impacting County governance and service delivery continue to be monitored.

c. Oak Park Fire Safe Council Liaison – J. L. Diaz

Mr. Diaz provided an update on Oak Park Fire Safe Council activities, noting continued emphasis on wildfire preparedness, defensible space, and community education. Coordination with residents and local agencies remains ongoing to support fire resilience in Oak Park.

d. Oak Park Unified School District Liaison – Brianna Adams

Ms. Adams provided a report on Oak Park Unified School District–related matters. No formal updates were presented at this meeting.

e. Triunfo Water & Sanitation District Liaison – Jane Nye

Ms. Nye provided a brief report regarding Triunfo Water & Sanitation District activities. No formal action items were reported.

f. OPHS Student Liaison

The student liaison provided a report to the Council. Community engagement and student involvement efforts were noted.

15. Announcements and Future MAC meetings (February 26, 2026) agenda items:

February 26, 2026 – Agenda Items

- Approval of the Oak Park MAC 2025 Achievements and 2026 Work Plan
- Presentation by Jeff Palmer, Deputy Director, Ventura County Public Works Agency: *Status Update on the Long-Range Management Plan for Medea Creek*
- Update on the Ron Stark memorial bench and discussion of potential locations
- County of Ventura Commendation to Eugene Molnar, Senior Grounds Maintenance Supervisor, Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District

March 26, 2026 – Agenda Items

- Review and effectiveness of the MAC Request Tickler Log
- Oak Park’s 60th Anniversary acknowledgement and potential celebration activities

Council Discussion

- Michelle Santucci reiterated the importance of including an update on the Ron Stark memorial bench, the commendation for a Rancho Simi employee, the review of the Request Tickler Log, and recognition of Oak Park’s 60th Anniversary.
- Councilmembers discussed the need for MAC representation on the Oak Park Committee and agreed that a Councilmember should attend future meetings.
- J. L. Diaz stated that he will attend an upcoming Rancho Simi committee meeting on behalf of the MAC.

CLOSING

16. Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 9:46 pm.

Next Oak Park MAC Meeting March 26 , 2026, 7:00 pm OPHS G-9, 899 Kanan Rd, Oak Park.