



JEFF GORELL
Supervisor, 2nd District

ISRAEL RODRIGUEZ
District Representative
Supervisor Jeff Gorell



**MEMBERS
OF THE BOARD**

- BRENDON GARCIA,
CHAIR
- ROB ALVIDREZ, VICE
CHAIR
- DEBBIE HANNA
- SCOTT HORN
- RICHARD GAZ

REGULAR MEETING

AGENDA

March 12, 2026

6:00 PM

**Municipal Advisory Council
Casa Conejo, California**

**Walnut Elementary School
Multipurpose Room
581 Dena Drive
Newbury Park, CA 91320**

WEB ACCESS

At: ventura.org/casaconejomac

MAC Calendar, Agenda, and Minutes

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

LEGAL NOTICES

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Public comment is the opportunity for members of the public to participate in meetings by addressing the Casa Conejo 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 subject to disclosure. An unredacted version is made available when records are requested by a Public Records Act request. Please do not submit personal contact information if you do not want it to be made public. Please submit your comment to israel.rodriquez@ventura.org or mail to:

Casa Conejo Municipal Advisory Council
Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorell
2100 E Thousand Oaks Blvd Suite E
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

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.

OPENING

1. Call to Order.
2. Roll Call.
3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.
4. Introduction and welcome of MAC Student Representative, Chris Knoedler.
5. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of the Casa Conejo Municipal Advisory Council held on January 8, 2026.
6. Agenda Review.

7. Consent Agenda Items (A through C).

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda items are routine and non-controversial. Items are reviewed and approved together by the Council as recommended and without discussion unless an item is pulled for separate action by the Board on the Regular Agenda. Consent items are heard at the Council's discretion and may be heard at any time during the meeting.

A. California Highway Patrol (CHP)

VERBAL REPORT WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE MAC MEETING.

B. Ventura County Fire Department

THE MARCH REPORT IS INCLUDED IN THE FINAL AGENDA PACKET. RECOMMENDATION RECEIVE AND FILE.

C. Ventura Sheriff Department

VERBAL REPORT WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE MAC MEETING.

D. Public Works Update- Casa Conejo Paving Project

UPDATE PROVIDED IS INCLUDED IN THE FINAL AGENDA PACKET. RECCOMENDATION RECEIVE AND FILE.

8. Public Comments – Citizen presentations regarding Casa Conejo Municipal Advisory Council related matters NOT appearing on this agenda. (See Guidelines above).
9. Office of Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorell's Comments – Brief announcements and report on County activities.
10. Council Comments – Comments by Council members on matters they deem appropriate. A Council member may ask a question for clarification, make a brief announcement, or make a brief report on his or her own activities. A Council member may also provide a reference to staff or other resources for information, or request staff to report back to the body at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter. The Council may also direct staff to place a matter of business on the future agenda.

(Continued to the next page)

REGULAR AGENDA

Regular Agenda items are heard at the Council's discretion and may be heard at any time during the meeting.

11. Update from Principal Farhit, Walnut Elementary School

Principal Farhit will provide an update on Walnut Elementary School. This item also presents an opportunity to strengthen collaboration between the school and the MAC, and to discuss ways the MAC can support students, teachers, and parents. Casa Conejo residents are invited to share input and suggestions to help advance education and foster a stronger community.

12. Update on the Planning for Casa Conejo Day - May 2nd, 2026

MAC members and staff from Supervisor Gorell's office will provide a status update on Casa Conejo Day planning. Topics will include event permits, layout and logistics, activities, sponsorships, budget, and county partner participation. Residents are encouraged to get involved in both the planning process and event activities.

13. Assignment of MAC Members to Sub-Committees and Initial Identification of Goals & Objectives for 2026

MAC Members will discuss priorities for 2026 and establish goals in the following focus areas:

- Public Health & Safety
- Planning & Public Works
- Community Relations

During this item:

- Initial goals and objectives for each key area will be identified for the 2026 calendar year.
- A finalized list of goals and objectives will be presented for formal vote and adoption.
- Proposals for the formation of Ad Hoc Committees may be introduced for Board consideration and approval.

CLOSING

14. Adjournment of the Casa Conejo Municipal Advisory Council meeting to the next meeting July 9th, 2026, at Walnut Elementary School, 581 Dena Drive, Newbury Park, CA 91320



JEFF GORELL
Supervisor, 2nd District
ISRAEL RODRIGUEZ
Field Representative
Supervisor Jeff Gorell

**REGULAR
MEETING**

MINUTES

January 8, 2026

6:00 PM

**Municipal Advisory Council
Casa Conejo, California**

**Walnut Elementary School
581 Dena Drive
Newbury Park, CA 91320**

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

- Brendon Garcia,
Chair
- Rob Alvidrez,
Vice Chair
- Scott Horn
- Debra Hanna
- Richard Gaz

Welcome to the meeting of the Casa Conejo Municipal Advisory Council (MAC), the advisory council for the unincorporated area of Somis to Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorell.

For More Information

<https://supervisorgorell.venturacounty.gov/advisory-councils/casa-conejo-mac/>

OPENING

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair **Brendan Garcia** at **6:00 PM**.

2. Roll Call

MAC Members Present: Brendan Garcia, Debra Hanna, Scott Horn, Rob Alvidrez

A quorum was present.

3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Brendan Garcia.

4. Nominations & Election of the 2026 Casa Conejo MAC Chair and Vice Chair

Chair (2026)

Nomination of Brendan Garcia made by Debra Hanna, seconded by Scott Horn.
Motion passed.

Councilmember Scott Horn noted that the chair position traditionally rotates to the next member in line and commented that he wanted to ensure the position did not become a burden if a member served multiple consecutive terms.

Vice Chair (2026)

Nomination of **Rob Alvidrez** made by **Scott Horn**, seconded by **Scott Horn**.
Motion passed.

5. Approval of the Minutes – October 9, 2025

Motion to approve the minutes made by Debra Hanna, seconded by Rob Alvidrez.
Motion passed.

6. Agenda Review

No changes were made to the agenda.

7. Consent Agenda Items (A–C)

District Representative Israel Rodriguez noted that the Ventura County Sheriff's Office is currently changing the representative who provides updates, and therefore no Sheriff's representative was present at the meeting.

A. Ventura County Fire Department Report

The Ventura County Fire Department report was provided as part of the meeting materials. Councilmember **Scott Horn** read the report aloud.

B. Ventura County Sheriff Department Report

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office report was provided as part of the meeting materials.

C. California Highway Patrol Report

Officer Ayers from the California Highway Patrol provided the CHP report.

Officer Ayers thanked the community for supporting the annual CHP "CHIPs for Kids" toy drive. Approximately 3,500 toys were collected locally, contributing to more than 10,000 toys distributed during the month of December.

Officer Ayers explained that CHP conducts maximum enforcement periods during major holidays. In the Moorpark CHP service area, 15 people died in vehicle crashes in 2024, many of which were believed to be preventable and related to distracted or impaired driving. In 2025, the number was reduced to six fatal crashes and seven deaths, representing a reduction of approximately 50 percent.

Officer Ayers reminded drivers to slow down during storms, maintain safe following distances, and remain alert in low visibility conditions in order to avoid collisions with debris or other hazards.

Council member Scott Horn asked about RV parking compliance following the installation of new signage. Officer Ayers reported that compliance has been nearly 100 percent, noting that recent statewide legislation and enforcement guidance have helped reinforce the ordinance, which is based on the California Vehicle Code.

Chair Garcia asked about parking restrictions near intersections. Officer Ayers explained that vehicles must park at least 15 feet from a corner when approaching a crosswalk or stop sign to maintain safety and visibility.

A member of the public asked about possible 20 mph residential speed limits. Officer Ayers explained that discussions about lowering speed limits primarily relate to school zones, where reduced speeds during pickup and drop-off hours can improve safety.

A resident also asked about e-bikes and e-scooters and what enforcement options exist. Officer Ayers explained that the rapid popularity of e-bikes has created enforcement challenges. Officers often avoid pursuing minors on e-bikes because that may create additional safety risks. When minors are stopped, they are typically held until a parent or guardian arrives. Officer Ayers emphasized that education is critical, since many parents may not realize the power and speed capabilities of these devices.

Chair Garcia noted that addressing the issue requires both education and enforcement. Officer Ayers stated that CHP is developing school-based education programs to help address e-bike safety.

District Representative Israel Rodriguez also promoted Supervisor Jeff Gorell's Bike Rodeo & E-Bike Safety Event, scheduled for January 24, 2026, at Redwood Middle School in Thousand Oaks, which will include demonstrations, safety training, and participation from multiple public safety partners.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda made by Scott Horn, seconded by Rob Alvidrez. Motion passed.

8. Public Comments – Non-Agenda Items

Wendy Zimmerman

Ms. Zimmerman reported that someone has repeatedly entered her driveway and disposed of dog waste in her trash bins. She stated that she finds the behavior offensive and concerning because it involves trespassing onto her property. She believes she may know the individual responsible and intends to file a report. She suggested that neighborhood awareness could help discourage the behavior.

Roseanne Cooley

Ms. Cooley requested an update regarding the former donut shop location.

Chair Garcia referred the question to Israel Rodriguez, who stated that the property is within the jurisdiction of the City of Thousand Oaks, so the County does not have direct oversight.

Ms. Zimmerman added that the drive-through at the location has reportedly been approved for a longer queue and extended hours, and that the site is expected to become a Starbucks. She also mentioned that the shopping center has been approved for an additional eating establishment.

Chair Garcia requested that a City of Thousand Oaks representative be invited to a future MAC meeting to provide information, noting that the project directly affects Casa Conejo residents.

9. Office of Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorell's Comments

District Representative Israel Rodriguez provided updates on behalf of Supervisor Gorell.

He announced the Bike Rodeo and E-Bike Safety Event scheduled for January 24, 2026, encouraging residents to attend.

Rodriguez also discussed the upcoming Point-in-Time Count on January 28, 2026, which measures homelessness across Ventura County. He explained that the count

functions similarly to a census and is essential for obtaining federal and state funding for homelessness programs. Programs such as Thrive Grove and specialized Sheriff's Office outreach units rely on accurate data from the count to secure funding and continue operations.

Rodriguez also discussed the Historic Reform to Planning and Permitting, introduced by Supervisors Jeff Gorell and Matt LaVere. The initiative aims to improve efficiency within the county's permitting system by reducing processing times, lowering costs, and making the process more convenient for residents and businesses.

10. Council Comments

Rob Alvidrez:

Councilmember Alvidrez wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated that he would like to work toward establishing a Neighborhood Watch program in Casa Conejo during the coming year. He suggested promoting the effort through the community newsletter and expressed interest in launching the program within the next few months.

Scott Horn:

Councilmember Horn congratulated Israel Rodriguez and Chair Brendan Garcia on the installation of the new MAC meeting signs, noting that the new signs are significantly more visible and effective than the previous ones. Several attendees indicated they learned about the meeting because of the improved signage.

Horn also praised Supervisor Gorell's recent Zone Zero Town Hall meeting, stating that the Supervisor listened carefully to community feedback and has been working to address concerns related to local autonomy and wildfire regulations.

Horn requested that the street sweeping calendar for Casa Conejo be made available to residents.

Horn also discussed a County cultural arts initiative involving artwork on utility boxes. Some of these boxes are located near Casa Conejo in Thousand Oaks. Horn suggested that the MAC should have input into what artwork is placed on utility boxes serving the Casa Conejo community.

County staff member Anitha Balan explained that artwork would require permits and final approval through the Arts Council, though the County is open to MAC input. Israel Rodriguez added that other MACs have participated in similar "Adopt-a-Cabinet" programs, and the idea could be incorporated into MAC goals.

Horn also noted that the Casa Conejo MAC website currently lacks historical documents and a list of MAC accomplishments, including early Casa Conejo work regarding Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) that was later referenced by the County when developing its ADU framework. Israel Rodriguez acknowledged the concern and stated that improving document accessibility is a priority.

Debra Hanna:

No comments were provided.

Brendan Garcia:

No comments were provided.

REGULAR AGENDA

11. Review and Approval of Revised 2026 Casa Conejo MAC Calendar

District Representative Israel Rodriguez presented the revised 2026 Casa Conejo MAC calendar.

Motion to approve made by Rob Alvidrez, seconded by Scott Horn.
Motion passed.

12. Ventura County Public Works Update – Casa Conejo Pavement Overlay Project 2026

Anitha Balan from the Ventura County Public Works Agency provided an update regarding the Casa Conejo Pavement Overlay Project planned for 2026.

She also discussed the County’s traffic signal synchronization program, which aims to improve traffic flow throughout Ventura County.

During the discussion, a resident asked whether all streets would be repaved. Balan explained that the current project will resurface Jenny Lesser Lane and Ruth Avenue, while other streets are expected to receive slurry seal treatment in a future project planned for 2028.

Councilmember Scott Horn raised concerns about streets that have curbs but no gutters, stating that the lack of gutters contributes to drainage issues.

Balan explained that the homes in Casa Conejo were originally constructed with curbs only, and installing gutters would require a much larger infrastructure project beyond the scope of the current resurfacing work. She noted that resurfacing may improve conditions, but installation of gutters would require a separate capital project.

13. Community Presentation – Senior Concerns

Martha Shapiro from Senior Concerns presented information about services available to the senior community.

Senior Concerns celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2025 and serves more than 13,000 individuals each year.

Programs discussed included:

- Adult Day Program, which provides care and social engagement for seniors at roughly half the cost of in-home care.
- Meals on Wheels, which provides nutritious meals and allows volunteers to check on seniors' wellbeing.
- Caregiver Support Center, which offers coaching, education, and support groups for family caregivers.
- Support groups for caregivers supporting individuals with Parkinson's disease, stroke recovery, bereavement, and aging parents.
- Senior Advocacy Services, which aid with household tasks and companionship.

These programs aim to help seniors remain connected and supported while assisting families caring for aging loved ones.

14. Review of 2025 Accomplishments and Goal Setting for 2026

MAC members reviewed accomplishments from 2025 and identified priorities for 2026.

Councilmember Scott Horn stated that Casa Conejo Day was one of the most significant accomplishments of 2025 and should remain a priority for the coming year.

Chair Brendan Garcia noted that Casa Conejo achieved Firewise designation in 2025 and will work toward renewing that status. Two Firewise signs are expected to be installed in the community.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the reliability of the electrical grid in Casa Conejo, noting that utility poles on private property appear unstable. Israel Rodriguez stated that community pressure has encouraged Southern California Edison to increase responsiveness to service issues.

The MAC discussed goals across three primary areas.

Public Health & Safety

- Neighborhood Watch program
- Bike lane improvements
- Power grid reliability

Planning & Public Works

- Updates regarding the Borchard Road property
- Infrastructure project assessments

Community Relations

- Community newsletter
- Inviting informative public speakers

Residents interested in participating in the Neighborhood Watch program provided contact information.

CLOSING

15. Adjournment

Chair Brendan Garcia adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.

The next Casa Conejo Municipal Advisory Council meeting will be held March 12, 2026, at Walnut Elementary School, 581 Dena Drive, Newbury Park, CA 91320



Website: **VCFD.org**
Twitter: **@VCFD**
Facebook: **The @VenturaCountyFire**
Instagram: **@VenturaCountyFire**

Contact: **Andy VanSciver** or **Andrew Dowd**
Public Information Officers
Phone: **(805) 389-9746**
Email: **PIOFire@ventura.org**

March 3, 2026

Attn: Supervisor Jeff Gorell and Municipal Advisory Committees

Independent Operational Review

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has initiated an independent review of Ventura County Fire Department (VCFD) operations related to the wildfire event that preceded and ultimately led to the Mountain Fire. The review is being led by CAL FIRE Southern Region Chief Mike van Loben Sels and CAL FIRE San Diego Unit and County Fire Chief Tony Mecham — both seasoned fire service leaders with extensive incident management experience at the state and national levels. This review underscores VCFD's commitment to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement in wildfire response operations.

Regional Interagency Training and Preparedness

Over the past month, VCFD firefighters have strengthened regional preparedness through joint training exercises with Ventura City Fire, Oxnard City Fire, and Los Angeles County Fire Department. Utilizing VCFD's new state-of-the-art training facility, crews conducted simulated structure fire scenarios that included mayday operations and firefighter rescue. These multi-agency drills enhance interoperability, reinforce mutual trust, and ensure seamless operational coordination during complex emergencies across jurisdictional boundaries.

Expansion of Fire Suppression Resources – Truck Company Deployment

In May, VCFD will place a new Truck Company into service in the Santa Clara River Valley, initially assigned to Fire Station 27 and later relocating to Fire Station 29 upon its opening later this year. This deployment is guided by a comprehensive Standards of Cover study conducted in partnership with Citigate, which evaluated system performance and identified opportunities to improve response times and service delivery. The addition of this truck company strengthens emergency response capacity in a growing service area and reflects data-driven resource planning.

Sincerely,

Andy VanSciver
Firefighter/Public Information Officer

March 9, 2026 Update - Casa Conejo Paving Project

Public Works Agency update regarding the two active construction projects in the Casa Conejo area.

Lesser/Jenny/Ruth Paving:

- 90% complete
- Striping and pavement legends to start mid-week
- Traffic signal loop installation at Ruth/Wendy to start mid-week
- All work expected to be completed by 3/20

Pedestrian Crossing Upgrades

- 70% complete
- Repaired concrete ramps and installed detectable warning surfaces (truncated domes)
- Waiting on rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFB) delivery estimated 4/1
- Enhance striping and pavement legends following RRFB installation
- All work expected to be completed by 4/30



National Crime Prevention Council

Starting a Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood Watch, Block Watch, Town Watch, Apartment Watch, Crime Watch -- no matter what it's called, this is one of the most effective and least costly answers to crime. Watch groups are a foundation of community crime prevention, they can be a stepping stone to community revitalization.

Phase One: Getting Started -- Meetings, Block Captains, and Maps

- Form a small planning committee of neighbors to discuss needs, the level of interest, possible challenges, and the Watch concept.
- Contact the local police or sheriffs' department, or local crime prevention organization, to discuss Neighborhood Watch and local crime problems. Invite a law enforcement officer to attend your meeting.
- Publicize your meeting at least one week in advance with door-to-door fliers and follow up with phone calls the day before.
- Select a meeting place that is accessible to people with disabilities.
- Hold an initial meeting to gauge neighbors' interest; establish purpose of program; and begin to identify issues that need to be addressed. Stress that a Watch group is an association of neighbors who look out for each other's families and property, alert the police to any suspicious activities or crime in progress, and work together to make their community a safer and better place to live.

Phase Two: When the neighborhood decides to adopt the Watch idea Elect a chairperson.

- Ask for block captain volunteers who are responsible for relaying information to members on their block, keeping up-to-date information on residents, and making special efforts to involve the elderly, working parents, and young people. Block captains also can serve as liaisons between the neighborhood and the police and communicate information about meetings and crime incidents to all residents.

Starting a Neighborhood Watch

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13th Floor
Washington, DC 20036
www.ncpc.org

- Establish a regular means of communicating with Watch members—e.g., newsletter, telephone tree, e-mail, fax, etc.
- Prepare a neighborhood map showing names, addresses, and phone numbers of participating households and distribute to members. Block captains keep this map up to date, contacting newcomers to the neighborhood and rechecking occasionally with ongoing participants.
- With guidance from a law enforcement agency, the Watch trains its members in home security techniques, observation skills, and crime reporting. Residents also learn about the types of crime that affect the area.
- If you are ready to post Neighborhood Watch signs, check with law enforcement to see if they have such eligibility requirements as number of houses that participate in the program. Law enforcement may also be able to provide your program with signs. If not, they can probably tell you where you can order them.
- Organizers and block captains must emphasize that Watch groups are not vigilantes and do not assume the role of the police. They only ask neighbors to be alert, observant, and caring—and to report suspicious activity or crimes immediately to the police.
- The Watch concept is adaptable. There are Park Watches, Apartment Watches, Window Watches, Boat Watches, School Watches, Realtor Watches, Utility Watches, and Business Watches. A Watch can be organized around any geographic unit.

Tips for Success

- Hold regular meetings to help residents get to know each other and to collectively decide upon program strategies and activities.
- Consider linking with an existing organization, such as a citizens' association, community development office, tenants' association, housing authority.
- Canvas door-to-door to recruit members.
- Involve everyone -- young and old, single and married, renter and homeowner.

- Gain support from the police or sheriffs' office. This is critical to a Watch group's credibility. These agencies are the major sources of information on local crime patterns, home security, other crime prevention education, and crime reporting.
- Get the information out quickly. Share all kinds of news -- quash rumors.
- Gather the facts about crime in your neighborhood. Check police reports, do victimization surveys, and learn residents' perceptions about crime. Often residents' opinions are not supported by facts, and accurate information can reduce fear of crime.
- Physical conditions like abandoned cars or overgrown vacant lots contribute to crime. Sponsor cleanups, encourage residents to beautify the area, and ask them to turn on outdoor lights at night.
- It's essential to celebrate the success of the effort and recognize volunteers' contributions through such events as awards, annual dinners, and parties. To help meet community needs, Neighborhood Watches can sponsor meetings that address broader issues such as drug abuse, gangs, self-protection tactics, isolation of the elderly, crime in the schools, and rape prevention.
- Don't forget events like National Night Out or a potluck dinner that gives neighbors a chance to get together. Such items as pins, t-shirts, hats, or coffee mugs with the group's name also enhance identity and pride.

Starting a Neighborhood Watch

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