



# REGULAR MEETING

**JEFF GORELL**

Supervisor, 2<sup>nd</sup> District

**ISRAEL RODRIGUEZ**

Field Representative

Supervisor Jeff Gorell

**MEMBERS  
OF THE COUNCIL**

- ROSEMARY ALLISON,  
CHAIR
- AMY ELLIOTT, VICE  
CHAIR
- MARK BURLEY
- MICHAEL ADAMS
- DEBRA SPAFFORD

## AGENDA

**March 19, 2026**

**6:00 PM**

**Municipal Advisory Council  
Santa Rosa Valley, California**

**Santa Rosa Technology Magnet School  
13282 Santa Rosa Road  
Santa Rosa Valley, CA 93012**

**WEB ACCESS**

At: [ventura.org/santarosavalleymac](http://ventura.org/santarosavalleymac)

MAC Calendar, Agenda, and Minutes

Welcome to the meeting of the Santa Rosa Valley Municipal Advisory Council (MAC), an advisory council for the unincorporated area of Santa Rosa Valley to Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorell.

## LEGAL NOTICES

Persons who require accommodation for any audio, visual, language, or other disability to review an agenda or to participate in a meeting of the Santa Rosa Valley Municipal Advisory Council per the American Disabilities Act (ADA), may obtain assistance by requesting such accommodation by calling (805) 214-2510 or e-mailing [israel.rodriquez@venturacounty.gov](mailto:israel.rodriquez@venturacounty.gov). Any such request for accommodation should be made at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting for which assistance is requested.

All agenda reports and supporting data, including those filed in accordance with Government Code Section 54957.5 (b) (1) and (2) are available from Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorell's office at 2100 E Thousand Oaks Blvd, Suite E, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362. The same materials will be available and attached with each associated agenda item, when received, at the following website: [ventura.org/santarosavalley/mac](http://ventura.org/santarosavalley/mac)

Documents including staff materials, comment emails and letters, photos, etc., distributed to the Santa Rosa Valley Municipal Advisory Council regarding any agenda item during an open session or after the meeting concluded, are posted online and made available for public inspection at [ventura.org/santarosavalley/mac](http://ventura.org/santarosavalley/mac)

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments are an opportunity for members of the public to participate in meetings by addressing the Santa Rosa Valley 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.

Members of the public who would like to augment their comments with visual or audio presentations must submit their materials to [israel.rodriquez@venturacounty.gov](mailto:israel.rodriquez@venturacounty.gov) for review at least 48 hours before the meeting. The review will be conducted to determine only whether the materials are on matters within the jurisdiction of the Municipal

Advisory Council, which would be disruptive of the meeting, or would foster illegality, such as identity theft. If it is determined that materials are about matters not within the Municipal Advisory Council's jurisdiction, or would be disruptive of the meeting, or would foster illegality, use of County-provided equipment will not be allowed.

### **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 on 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@venturacounty.gov](mailto:israel.rodriquez@venturacounty.gov) or mail to:

Santa Rosa Valley 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. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of the Santa Rosa Valley Municipal Advisory Council held on Thursday, January 15, 2026.
5. Agenda Review.

6. Approval of Consent Agenda Items A through C.
  - A. California Highway Patrol: The California Highway Patrol's January safety report is included in the March 19<sup>th</sup> final agenda packet.
  - B. Ventura County Fire Department: The VCFD January safety report is included in the March 19<sup>th</sup> final agenda packet.
  - C. Ventura County Sheriff Department: The VCSD January safety report will be presented verbally at the March 19<sup>th</sup> MAC meeting.
7. Public Comments – Citizen presentations regarding Santa Rosa Valley Municipal Advisory Council related matters NOT appearing on this agenda. (See Guidelines above).
8. Office of Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorell's Comments – Brief announcements and report on County activities.
9. 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 a future agenda.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

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

10. **Eliceo Mendoza, Traffic Engineer, Ventura County Public Works Agency (PWA), to Provide Updates on the Following:**
  - A. The status and recent developments regarding the installation of back-up power generators for the Santa Rosa Road traffic signals, and PWA's preparations for potential fall wind events.
  - B. An update on the adaptive traffic signal software system for the Santa Rosa Road corridor, including the projected implementation timeline, anticipated impacts, and expected outcomes.

### **11. Update/Solutions – Santa Rosa Valley Park Equestrian Riding Arena**

MAC Member Debra Spafford and District Representative, Israel Rodriguez to present an Ad-Hoc committee report on potential solutions for improving the

condition of the Santa Rosa Valley Park equestrian arena and plans for upkeep and maintenance. The report will include updates on:

- Assessing the current water delivery system at SRV Park for flow rate and water pressure in order to deliver water to the arenas.
- Equip arenas with piped water for use when dragging.
- Equipping the park with a dedicated tractor and dragging equipment.
- Provide training for volunteers who are willing to assist in dragging the arena on a regular basis.
- Work with the Camp Host to aid in the upkeep and dragging of the arena.

**12. Kevin Cannon – Firewise Update to Include the Following Items:**

- A. Update status on the number of communities that have achieved and are pursuing their Firewise Recognition.
- B. Announcement of a Santa Rosa Valley Firewise Community Educational Event to take place on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the Rancho Santa Rosa Clubhouse, located at 11701 East Las Posas Road. SRV neighborhood Firewise Leaders, Ventura County Fire, and wildfire prevention service providers will be present to answer questions and aid residents in protecting their homes in the event of wildfire.

**13. Review of Santa Rosa 2025 Accomplishments and the Establishment of Goals and Objectives for the Santa Rosa Valley MAC in 2026.**

MAC members along with Supervisor Gorell's Office to review successes, challenges, and accomplishments for 2025, while looking ahead to setting goals and objectives for this coming calendar year. Community input is encouraged as part of this process.

**CLOSING**

**14. Adjournment of the Santa Rosa Valley Municipal Advisory Council meeting to the next meeting, May 21, 2026, at Santa Rosa Valley Technology Magnet School located at 13282 Santa Rosa Road, Santa Rosa Valley, CA 93012.**



# REGULAR MEETING

## JEFF GORELL

Supervisor, 2<sup>nd</sup> District

## ISRAEL RODRIGUEZ

Field Representative  
Supervisor Jeff Gorell

## MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

- ROSEMARY ALLISON,  
CHAIR
- AMY ELLIOTT, VICE  
CHAIR
- MARK BURLEY
- MICHAEL ADAMS
- DEBRA SPAFFORD

# MINUTES

## January 15, 2026

## 6:00 PM

Municipal Advisory Council  
Santa Rosa Valley, California

Santa Rosa Technology Magnet School  
13282 Santa Rosa Road  
Santa Rosa Valley, CA 93012

### WEB ACCESS

At: [ventura.org/santarosavalley/mac](http://ventura.org/santarosavalley/mac)

MAC Calendar, Agenda, and Minutes

Welcome to the meeting of the Santa Rosa Valley Municipal Advisory Council (MAC), an advisory council for the unincorporated area of Santa Rosa Valley to Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorell.

## OPENING

1. Call to Order.
  - A. **Chair Rosemary Allison** called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.
  
2. Roll Call.
  - A. Members present: **Rosemary Allison, Amy Elliott, Mark Burley, Michael Admas, Debra Spafford.**
  - B. Quorum Met.
  
3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.
  
4. Nominations and Election of Santa Rosa Valley 2026 MAC Chair and Vice Chair.
  - A. **Mark Burley** nominated **Rosemary Allison** to be Chair of the Santa Rosa Valley MAC, seconded by **Amy Elliot**. Motion Passed
  - B. **Mark Burley** nominated **Amy Elliott** as Vice Chair, seconded by **Deb Spafford**. Motion Passed.
  
5. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of the Santa Rosa Valley Municipal Advisory Council held on Thursday, November 20, 2025.
  - A. Motion to approve the minutes made by **Mark Burley**, seconded by **Michael Adams**. Motion Passed.
  
6. Agenda Review.
  - A. No changes to the agenda
  - B. **Mark Burley** motioned to accept the agenda and **Deb Spafford** seconded. The Motion passed.
  
7. Approval of Consent Agenda Items A through C.
  - A. California Highway Patrol: The California Highway Patrol's January safety report is included in the January 15<sup>th</sup> final agenda packet.  
**Recommendation to Receive and File.**
  - B. Ventura County Fire Department: The VCFD January safety report will be included in the January 15<sup>th</sup> final agenda packet.  
**Recommendation to Receive and File.**
  - C. Ventura County Sheriff Department: **Senior Deputy Sabio** was recently assigned to the SRV MAC and introduced himself and provided a verbal report.

Flyer- Supervisor Jeff Gorell's Bike Rodeo & E-Bike Safety Event at Redwood Middle School, 233 W. Gainsborough Rd., Thousand Oaks California on January 24, 2026. **Recommendation to Receive and File.** Santa Rosa Valley 2026 Regular Meeting Calendar. **Recommendation to Receive and File.**

- **Fire Captain Johnson** provided a verbal safety report on behalf of the Ventura County Fire Department.
- **Senior Deputy Sabio** provided a verbal safety report on behalf of the Ventura County Sheriff Department.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda made by Mark Burley, seconded by Deb Spafford. Motion Passed.

8. Public Comments – Citizen presentations regarding Santa Rosa Valley Municipal Advisory Council related matters NOT appearing on this agenda. (See Guidelines above).

- A. **Speaker Jen Price:** Spoke on the road work being conducted during fire season. She asked if the work be done in the off-fire season, especially during PSPS shutoffs. **Anitha Balan and Gianfranco Laurie** from Public Works addressed the issue and said it would be difficult to ask a contractor not to work when they have been contracted to complete their work within certain timelines and would lead to project delays countywide.
- B. **Speaker Kevin Canon:** We now have six communities that are FireWise recognized in Santa Rosa Valley. Each community has a three-year action plan to work towards mitigating loss of lives and property. Kevin announced an up-and-coming event in the summer at the Santa Rosa Club to help promote FireWise efforts. **Supervisor Gorell** was asked to address the recent changes to the Zone Zero policy. He stated that it will be out shortly, but it looks quite different than the first draft and puts more control at the local level.

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

- **Supervisor Gorell** made the announcement about the Bike Rodeo and E-Bike Safety event on January 24<sup>th</sup> to highlight e-bike safety in his district.
- Ventura County was again named the Safest large County in California.
- The Supervisor was elected Chair of the Board Supervisors for 2026.
- The Supervisor spoke about short term rentals in Santa Rosa Valley. RMA hired a consulting company to assess the number of short-term rentals and found that there were only two short-term rentals in SRV. In the case of Airbnb's in Ojai it was proven that short-term rentals raised the cost of

living for local residents and pushed workers out further due to the high rental costs, and as a result were banned in Ojai. It would make it hard for the same argument to make in SRV since there are no downtown shops and local workers in SRV. Supervisor Gorell asked the MAC and the audience if this is an issue they want to see on the next agenda. Chair Allison asked that it be placed on the next agenda. This would be applied to the areas that do not have an HOA.

#### 10. Council Comments –

- A. **Chair Rosemary Allison** commented on the For the Troops gala on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Over 323,000 packages have been sent out to troops deployed. Hill Canyon Trail Trot fundraiser.
- B. **Vice Chair Amy Elliott** Comments: Noticed that after heavy rains that we a lot of debris that builds up in the County park.
- C. **Michael Adams**: State Farm is in the process of not renewing their home owner's insurance. This will affect a lot of residents.
- D. **Mark Burley**: Verizon bunker issue has been resolved from a county perspective. Mark also spoke on the closure of the Camelot trail. The HOA is meeting soon, and the option of electronic gates will be discussed this week.
- E. **Deb Spafford**: Said she would hold her comments until the regular agenda item on the county horse arena.

### REGULAR AGENDA

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

#### 11. Update – Santa Rosa Valley Park Equestrian Riding Arena

**MAC Member Debra Spafford** presented an Ad-Hoc committee report on the condition of the Santa Rosa Valley Park equestrian arena and plans for upkeep and maintenance going forward.

##### A. Findings/Comments:

- i. The arena currently lacks adequate water piping to provide adequate watering for grooming. County Parks is currently working to add more piping to the horse arenas.
- ii. In order to have safe arenas there needs to be regular watering and dragging weekly.
- iii. There are times when the arenas will require additional arena watering and dragging before and after rental events (Horse Shows) and storms.

B. Additional Issues:

- i. Equipment: Currently there is not the proper dragging equipment.
- ii. Labor: Needs to be the job of the Park Host to drag the arena. Bob, the current camp host, is willing to drag the arena but his assignment soon comes to an end. Currently, the Park Host position does not have as part of their duty to drag the arenas.
- iii. The current lease agreement with Stepping Stones specifies only to be dragged twice a month but it should do more often to keep the arena in a safe and good condition for horses.

**12. Public Works Agency (PWA) to Provided Reports and Updates on the Following Topics and Programs:**

A. PWA representative Gianfranco Laurie, provided an update on the recent repaving of Streets in Santa Rosa Valley that occurred in late 2025. This project was in response to addressing previous issues that occurred with the original project in 2024.

i. Findings/Comments:

1. Everything went well with the new paving project. Public Works conducted street sweeping regularly to make sure all the aggregate was removed.
2. As a result of the last paving project, PWA has removed the cape seal slurry process from our residential paving methodologies. Public Works ended up repaving one third of the streets, helping to improve the overall community.

B. PWA representative **Gianfranco Laurie** provided an update on the implementation of power generators for traffic lights that will be used during PSPS shutdowns and the status of the traffic control command center.

i. Findings/Comments:

1. Public Works have been looking at natural gas and hydrogen fuel cell methods to power emergency generators. Hydrogen provides zero emission and zero noise. Public Works is searching for grant money to fund a power shut off back up system and the SRV has been selected for that pilot program. The cost is about \$60k per generator.
2. Public Works recently added grip paper at intersection to help prevent T-bone accidents.
3. The command center is up and running and can now detect when a signal is out remotely.

4. The framework is now place for installing an adaptive system that will detect traffic flow and adjust naturally.

C. Finally, PWA representative **Anitha Balan** introduced the newly proposed Adopt-a-Cabinet program which seeks to utilize local artists to decorate local utility boxes in an effort to beautify our communities and deter graffiti. Public Works is seeking input from the MAC and public on this proposed program.

i. Findings/Comments:

1. It started because residents were asking if they could paint the utility boxes.
2. The request to paint a box has to come through a non-profit organization.
3. The Ventura Art Council will review the art and vet the art.
4. **Mark Burley** motioned asking that the MAC can veto the artwork. As part of discussion, **Michael Adams** stated that he does not feel that this program is a good fit for the SRV area and we should keep the utility boxes as is.
5. **Mark Burley** motioned for the SRV MAC to have veto capability with the art selected as part of the Adopt-a-Cabinet program for utility boxes in SRV. The motion was seconded by **Amy Elliott**. Motion passed. **Anitha Balan** said she would take the recommendation back and let the MACs concern be known.
6. **There is a cost for the non for profit that is requesting the work to be done.** The cost includes a small permit fee of \$385.00 plus the cost of materials.

### **13. Review of Santa Rosa 2025 Accomplishments and the Establishment of Goals and Objectives for the Santa Rosa Valley MAC in 2026.**

This item was postponed until the next meeting.

### **CLOSING**

**14.** Adjournment of the Santa Rosa Valley Municipal Advisory Council meeting to the next meeting, March 19, 2026, at Santa Rosa Valley Technology Magnet School located at 13282 Santa Rosa Road, Santa Rosa Valley, CA 93012.

A. **Chair Allison** adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.



To: Supervisor Gorell's office

**CHP MOORPARK'S DISTRICT 2 MAC TALKING POINTS:**

- **Fatal Traffic Crash on SR-23 Claims Two Lives.**

CHP Moorpark Area investigated a fatality crash on SR-23 in Moorpark that resulted in two deaths. A pickup truck was traveling at a high rate of speed and lost control while driving southbound on SR-23. The vehicle drove up an embankment and went over the guardrail, landing on the northbound lanes directly in the path of an oncoming sedan. The crash resulted in the deaths of the passenger in the pickup and the driver of the sedan.

This crash serves as a reminder that driving in the far-left lane on a multi-lane freeway places motorists closest to oncoming traffic and potential debris or projectiles that may cross over the center divider or guardrail. Additionally, wrong way drivers are often traveling in the far-left lane because they believe it is the right-hand lane on their side of the roadway or they are looking for an exit, which are typically on the right. When possible, motorists should avoid traveling in the left lane except when passing.

- **Distracted Driving Awareness Month.**

April is National Distracted Driver Awareness month and provides an opportunity to refocus on the choices we make while behind the wheel. Distracted driving remains a leading factor in preventable crashes. CHP officers will be conducting heightened enforcement efforts throughout the area to identify and stop drivers who are using electronic devices or are otherwise distracted while driving.

- **CHP Recruiting Opportunities.**

The California Highway Patrol continues to hire officers to help make California's roadways safer. If you or someone you know is interested in joining the CHP, visit [www.betheCHP1000.com](http://www.betheCHP1000.com) for more information and to speak with a local recruiter. The CHP is also hiring to for a variety of non-uniform positions. For more details and applications please visit [www.chp.ca.gov](http://www.chp.ca.gov).

- We appreciate the community's continued partnership in helping keep Ventura County's roadways safe. Follow CHP Moorpark on social media for traffic updates, sig alerts, evacuation notices, roadway closures, and general information about what the CHP activity in your area.

Twitter: @CHPMoorpark  
Facebook: @CHP-Moorpark  
Instagram: @CHPMoorpark

Contact: **Officer Ryan Ayers**  
*Public Information Officer*

Phone: **(805) 553-0800**  
Email: **rayers@chp.ca.gov**



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



---

# Roads & Transportation Santa Rosa Valley MAC Meeting

March 19, 2026

# Backup Power for Public Safety Power Shutoff Events

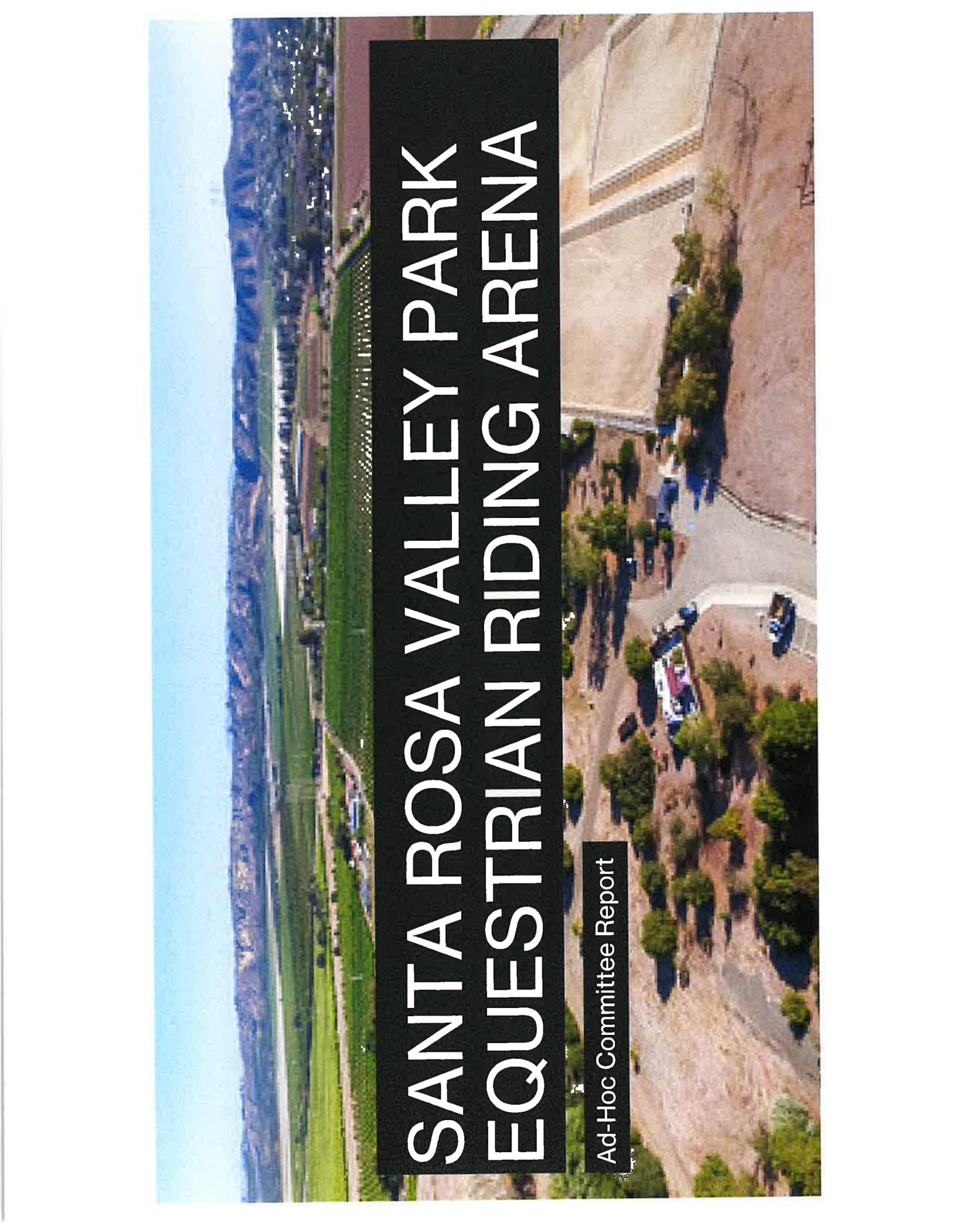
- ▶ Our evaluations have resulted in Hydrogen Fuel Cells as being chosen over Portable Gasoline Generators, Pad Mounted Gas or Diesel Generators, Solar Power, or Super Capacitors (batteries)
- ▶ To be installed adjacent to the existing traffic signal cabinets with guardrail protection (OK per Ventura County Fire Department)
- ▶ Phase 1, has a goal to be installed by June 30, 2026, will be at the intersections of: Hill Canyon Road, Yucca Drive, E. Las Posas Road, and Moorpark Road
- ▶ Phase 2, has a goal to be installed by September 30, 2026, for the remaining intersections: Blanchard Road, Brittany Park Road, Penelope Place, Vista Arroyo, and Vista Grande



# Adaptive Corridor Study Update

- Adaptive Corridor Study
  - This study has been completed and determined that Santa Rosa Road can benefit from an Adaptive Corridor design, especially during peak hours.
  - Budgeted \$150k for design and \$950k for implementation which includes adding video detection cameras to all of the intersections which do not currently have it and replacing the old incompatible video detection system at Hill Canyon Road. The recently installed video detection systems at E. Las Posas Road and Moorpark Road are adaptive-ready.
  - Goal is to have the construction completed and operational before the summer of 2027

# Questions?

An aerial photograph of Santa Rosa Valley Park. The foreground shows a large, light-colored paved area, possibly a parking lot or arena, with some trees and a few vehicles. In the middle ground, there are green fields and a road. The background features a valley with a river or stream, and distant mountains under a clear blue sky.

# SANTA ROSA VALLEY PARK EQUESTRIAN RIDING ARENA

Ad-Hoc Committee Report

## Ad-Hoc Committee

**Problem statement:** The increased daily use of the arenas and round pen over the past 2 years has led to deterioration of their condition, posing a risk to horses and riders.

**Goal of Ad-Hoc committee:** Develop recommendations for ongoing maintenance of the arenas and round pen, to provide a safe environment for horses and riders of all disciplines and experience levels.

**Members:** Debra Spafford, Jen Price, Darlene Alves, Ann Gottwig

**Meetings held:** January 6, January 12, February 2

# BEST PRACTICES FOR ARENA MAINTENANCE

Research

3/16/2026



# WHY DO HORSE ARENAS NEED TO BE GROOMED

## ◆ AI Overview

Horse arenas need grooming to ensure horse safety, performance, and health by preventing injuries, maintaining consistent footing, controlling dust, and extending the life of the surface material, which involves loosening compacted areas, mixing additives, and creating an even, shock-absorbing environment that supports the horse's biomechanics. Regular grooming combats the "Brazil Nut Effect", where particles separate, leading to instability. [🔗](#)



# WHY DO HORSE ARENAS NEED TO BE GROOMED

## Key Reasons for Arena Grooming

- **Injury Prevention:** Grooming removes dangerous uneven spots, holes, and compacted areas that could cause horses to lose their footing, potentially leading to lameness, stone bruises, muscle strains, or joint injuries.
- **Ensures Consistent Footing:** Regular use causes footing materials (sand, additives, etc.) to shift and compact unevenly, or for larger particles to rise to the surface. Grooming remixes the materials and maintains a uniform balance of softness, firmness, and traction across the entire arena, so the ground feels the same for all competitors and maneuvers, such as sharp turns or sliding stops.
- **Optimal Performance:** A well-maintained surface allows horses to move with confidence and perform at their peak ability, as they can trust the ground beneath them. Different disciplines have specific footing requirements, and grooming allows the surface to be set to the ideal conditions for the event.
- **Dust and Moisture Control:** Grooming, often combined with watering, helps manage moisture content, which minimizes airborne dust particles that can cause respiratory issues for both horses and riders.
- **Professional Appearance:** A freshly groomed arena looks professional and well-maintained, reflecting the organizers' dedication and commitment to providing a high-quality event environment.
- **Protects the Arena Base:** Proper grooming prevents the top layer from wearing down to the arena's base layer, which can be expensive to repair or replace if damaged. <sup>8</sup>

# PERFORMANCE FOOTING

[HTTPS://WWW.PERFORMANCEFOOTING.COM/](https://www.performancefooting.com/)

## Why Dragging Frequency Matters

Arena footing goes through a lot of wear and tear with use, especially in high-use areas. With each step, footing material becomes more compacted. This can create uneven patches, and stir up dust. Without regular dragging, these effects can build up and lead to more serious issues. Frequent dragging helps fix these problems by redistributing material and balancing out the surface.

## Consistency and Safety Go Hand in Hand

A compacted or uneven surface can be a safety risk. Hard and uneven surfaces increase the chance of injury for horses. Regular dragging smooths out inconsistencies, ensuring a level surface for every session.

## Guidelines Based on Usage Levels

- **Low Use (1-2 times a week):** Private or low-traffic arenas benefit from weekly dragging to keep footing even without overworking the surface.
- **Moderate Use (2-4 times a week):** Arenas with steady activity should be dragged 2-4 times weekly to prevent compacting and maintain quality.
- **Heavy Use (Daily):** High-traffic or competition arenas need daily dragging to keep the footing safe under frequent wear.

# FOOTING SOLUTIONS USA

## [HTTPS://FOOTINGSOLUTIONSUSA.COM/](https://footingsolutionsusa.com/)

### How often should you groom your riding arena?

While daily arena grooming is key to keep the arena surface at its optimum, the exact frequency will be dependent upon a few factors.

- How often the arena is used If your ring sees a moderate traffic (up to 10 horses) every day, using an arena leveler daily will likely be necessary to keep it maintained. Arenas with 10+ horses daily should be dragged twice a day
- For what discipline the arena is used Some disciplines ride largely on the rail, and therefore that track will wear out quicker. Flatwork like dressage and equitation is gentle on the arena footing, while jumping has a much higher impact on the surface and need much more attention
- Type of arena surface. Some arena surfaces require more water or grooming than others. An arena footing which is thoroughly watered will be more stable and would need less harrowing like a dry sand arena

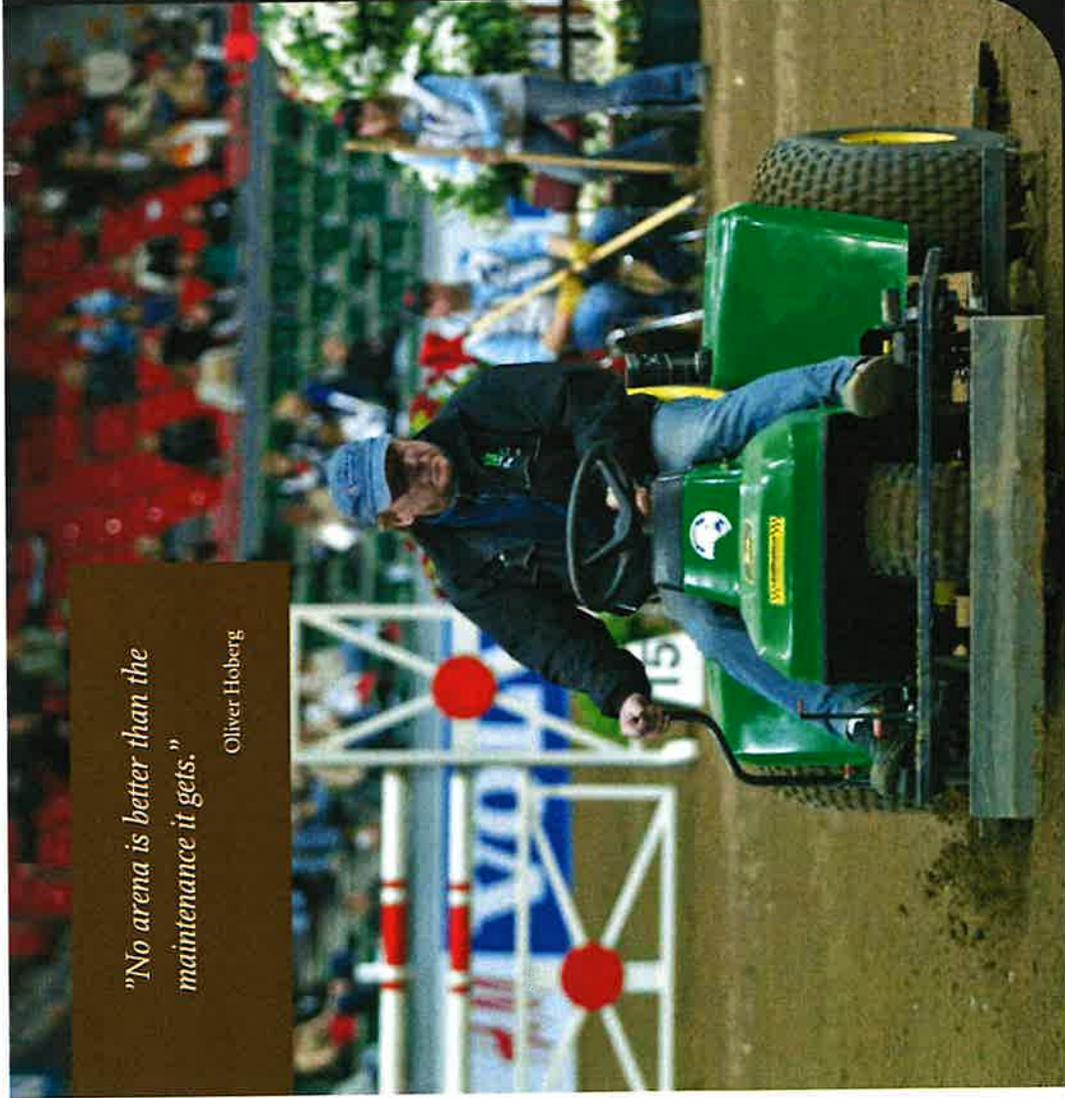
### How much should you water your arena surface?

Determining your watering schedule will also require you to assess your situation. Factors to consider include

- Type of watering system. Underground irrigation, water wagons, and overhead sprinklers all have variables that will make your watering frequency, length of watering, and time of watering different
- Climate. How much you need to water an arena in a hot and dry climate vs. a cooler or more humid environment, including the time of year, will vary greatly. In a dry climate like California, watering thoroughly twice daily is necessary. If you live in the Midwest or East Coast with occasional rain showers and storms once a week, daily light watering will be sufficient
- Footing materials. The type of sand additive you use will also play a role in how much you need to water. Wood chips hold moisture well, but also break down if too wet, so finding a happy medium on how much water you add is important. Rubber is not porous, but also does not bind with sand, so, like with plain sand, will require more water to keep dust levels down. And, geotextile additives stabilize sand and retain moisture, which leads to water savings

*"No arena is better than the maintenance it gets."*

Oliver Hoberg



## Resources

- [https://inside.fei.org/system/files/Equestrian\\_Surfaces-A\\_Guide.pdf](https://inside.fei.org/system/files/Equestrian_Surfaces-A_Guide.pdf)
- <https://footingsolutionsusa.com/>
- <https://premierequestrian.com/>
- <https://www.agha.com/-/arena-care-the-fundamentals>
- <https://publications.mgcafe.uky.edu/sites/publications.ca.uky.edu/files/ID266.pdf>



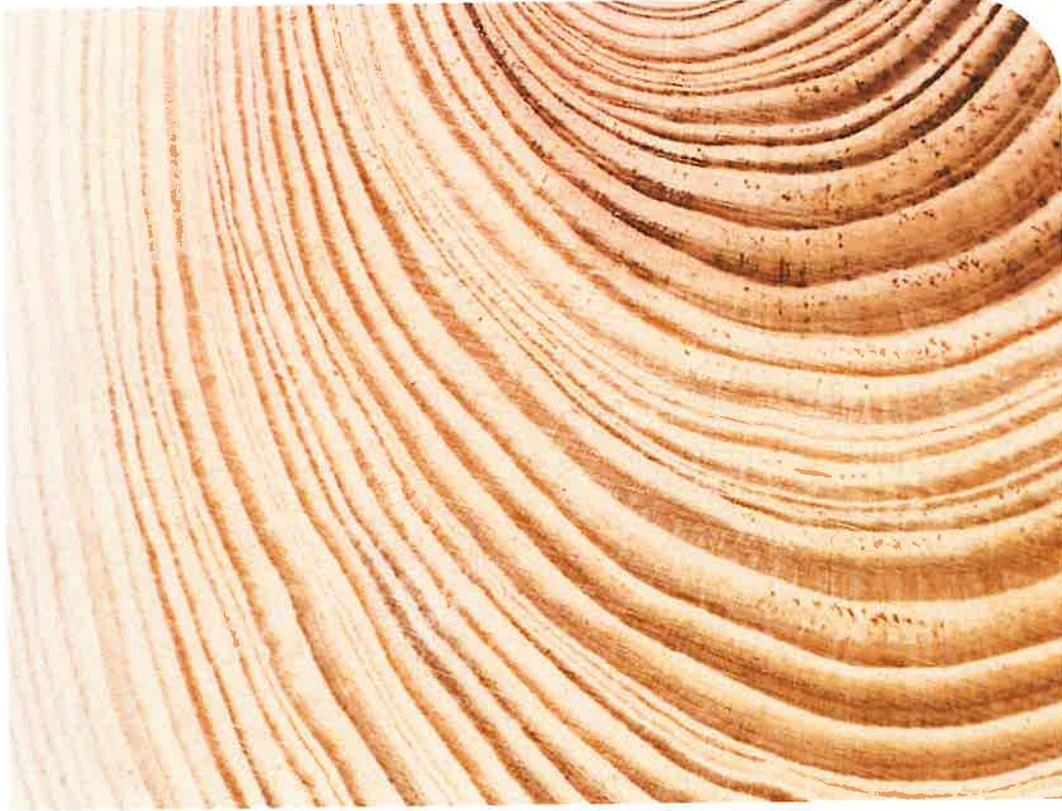
## **CURRENT ESTIMATED USAGE**

- 1. Arenas – daily, with an estimated average of 10-15 horses per day**
- 2. Round pen – daily, with an estimated average of 5 horses per day**



# RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Water piped to arenas to provide adequate watering for grooming**
- 2. Dedicated tractor and arena drag always at park. Equipment must be properly maintained, repaired in timely manner and drag teeth replaced per manufacturer guidelines**
- 3. Regular arena watering & dragging schedule**
  - Large arena – daily Monday-Saturday
  - Small arena – Monday and Thursday
  - Half court – every 2 weeks
- 4. Special arena watering & dragging**
  - Before and after arena rental events (such as horse shows)
- 5. Storm/heavy rain prep & recovery for arenas**
  - Dragged after last lesson before storm predicted
  - Dragged before re-opening after storm/rain is over



# RECOMMENDATIONS

## 5. Round pen maintenance

- **Short-term – The current sand buildup on the perimeter needs to be raked into the middle and leveled out and then raked every 2 weeks after that to maintain**
- **Long-term – obtain smaller vehicle (such as a quad) and grooming implement for more frequent grooming**

# PROPOSED MAINTENANCE OPTIONS ARENAS

Option 1 (Preferred)	Option 2	Option 3
<p>Add arena grooming duties, as outlined in recommendations, to the Park Host responsibilities (include in contract – estimated 5-7 hours per week). Previous park host (Gail) maintained arenas</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No labor cost as the Park Host needs to fulfill 20 hours of work per week.</li> <li>The Park Host has a consistent presence</li> <li>County equipment is available and Park Host is authorized to use it</li> </ul>	<p>Add arena grooming duties, as outlined in recommendations, to the Stepping Stones Riding Program(SSRP) responsibilities (amend lease)</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No labor cost</li> <li>SSRP main source of increased usage requiring increased maintenance</li> <li>Provides a service back to the community to fulfill the “improvements clause” in current lease</li> </ul>	<p>Hire an outside contractor to perform arena grooming duties, as outlined in recommendations.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consistent maintenance if options 1 or 2 cannot be implemented</li> </ul> <p>Con:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost to Parks and Rec</li> </ul>

# PROPOSED MAINTENANCE OPTIONS ARENAS

## County requested option

Have arena grooming duties, as outlined in recommendations, performed by volunteers using parks and rec equipment

### Pro:

- No labor cost

### Cons:

- Someone will have to be responsible for managing volunteers
- No contractual responsibility to perform duties
- No accountability
- Great potential for liability
- Not advised by Ad hoc committee

# ALTERNATIVE OPTION ARENAS

## SSRP set up their own arena within the land they are leasing

- All lessons would be performed in their arena
- Would reduce the amount of use in the parks arenas therefore reducing the amount of routine maintenance needed
- Would still require formalized routine maintenance for the park arenas as this has been a past oversight:
  - Water piped to arenas to provide adequate watering for grooming
  - Regular arena watering & dragging schedule
    - Large arena – Twice a week (on the same days each week)
    - Small arena – Once a week
    - Half court – Twice a month
  - Special arena watering & dragging: Before and after arena rental events (such as horse shows)
  - Storm/heavy rain prep & recovery for arenas
    - Dragged after before storm predicted
    - Dragged before re-opening after storm/rain is over

# PROPOSED MAINTENANCE OPTIONS ROUND PEN – REGARDLESS OF WHERE SSRP LESSONS ARE HELD

Option 1 (Preferred)	Option 2	Option 3
<p>Add round pen grooming duties, as outlined in recommendations, to the SSRP responsibilities (amend lease)</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No labor cost</li> <li>• SSRP main source of increased usage requiring increased maintenance</li> <li>• Provides a service back to the community to fulfill the "improvements clause" in current lease</li> <li>• Does not require expensive equipment purchase for SSRP</li> </ul>	<p>Add round pen grooming duties, as outlined in recommendations, to the Park Host responsibilities (include in contract). Previous park host (Gail) maintained round pen</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No labor cost as the Park Host needs to fulfill 20 hours of work per week.</li> <li>• The Park Host has a consistent presence</li> <li>• County equipment is available and Park Host is authorized to use it</li> </ul>	<p>Hire an outside contractor to perform round pen grooming duties, as outlined in recommendations.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent maintenance if options 1 or 2 cannot be implemented</li> </ul> <p>Cons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost to Parks and Rec</li> </ul>

# PROPOSED MAINTENANCE OPTIONS ROUND PEN

## County requested option

Have round pen grooming duties, as outlined in recommendations, performed by volunteers

### Pro:

- No labor cost

### Cons:

- Someone will have to be responsible for managing volunteers
- No contractual responsibility to perform duties
- No accountability
- Not advised by Ad hoc committee