

Rosamond Municipal Advisory Council



Minutes of Meeting – August 19, 2021

1. **Meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.** This is the initial return to regular, in-person meetings at Hummel Hall for the Rosamond Municipal Advisory Council. This month's meeting was not available on Zoom but there are plans to provide a video feed of future meetings. Details will be provided once arrangements are finalized. There were 16 people in attendance.
2. **Flag Salute**
3. **Roll call of the Directors and Attendance:** Directors Donna Morris, Tim Blakeley, Lisa Sanchez, and Bill Parkman were in attendance. Directors Shoffner, McArdle and Riley were excused absences.
4. **Adopt Agenda:** A motion was made by Donna Morris to adopt the agenda and seconded by Tim Blakeley. Vote was unanimous.
5. **Approve Minutes:** The July 15, 2021 meeting was recorded and was posted and made available on YouTube with the tagline available on the RMAC Facebook page.
6. **Guest Speaker(s): No guest speaker this month.**
7. **Community Leader Reports:**
 - A. Kern County Sheriff's Office: Lt Kraft and Sgt. Smith attended on behalf of the Sheriff's Office (Rosamond Substation). Lt Kraft advised that the pot shops are still on the radar but that the process of dealing with them and getting resources to deal with them requires a great deal of coordination to schedule, conduct the raids, etc. He and Sgt. Smith advised that they regard this as a priority for the Rosamond Sub-station.
 - B. California Highway Patrol: Commander John Williams provided this month's report for the CHP. He followed up Lt Kraft's reporting and advised that the CHP helps in whatever manner needed to support the Kern County Sheriff's Office. In response to a question from Chairman Parkman regarding bad behavior of drivers and, possibly, parents of students at Rosamond Elementary, Commander Williams advised that they have been stationing officers near the various school grounds. It was noted that it was the first week of school and that there was probably some confusion. Chairman Parkman asked Commander Williams if he remembers the meeting that Caltrans, CHP, Kern County Sheriff, RMAC and other interested parties had regarding the Rosamond Boulevard 14 Overpass and Glendower Street and B Street. He added that Stage 1 was re-striping, re-signing and installing delineators to keep traffic within their respective lanes on both the Boulevard and the eastbound Highway 14 off-ramp. Chairman Parkman noted that there seemed to be some forgetfulness on the part of both CalTrans and Kern County Roads and he was getting exasperated. He added that it was supposed to be followed up with a Traffic Study and a Stage 2 program to apply a permanent fix to that area. John advised that he had just recently been in meetings with CalTrans and Design and Engineering for that overpass is in progress. He added that the Rosamond overcrossing is one of his two big projects that he has been closely following. The other he added was in Mojave. After a few more minutes of discussion, Chairman Parkman thanked John and told him that he had learned more about what was happening with that Overpass in the last three minutes than he had been able to garner in the last six months in talking with CalTrans and Kern County Roads. Chairman Parkman asked Commander Williams if he could fully brief his relief on that project so that it keeps visibility after John moves on to retirement. John replied that he would do so.
 - C. Assemblyman Tom Lackey: Carlos XXXX introduced himself to the Council and advised that there was not much to report on legislative matters this month.
 - D. Kern County Supervisor's representative: Laura Lynn Wyatt noted that it was so wonderful to be back meeting in person. She added that as word gets out that the live meetings are back on at Hummel Hall she hopes that attendance by the community will pick up. She noted that she had received a complaint regarding the property on Locust and Diamond and that she had received emails from both Lisa Sanchez and Francis Thompson regarding the trash buildup and general rundown condition of the property and that she was working with Code Compliance to get it addressed. She corrected a point she had made previously in a conversation with Jack Miller. Specifically, there is a 14-day waiting period (not 30 days) after notification of the property owner to clean up the mess. When that time elapses, Code Compliance will start soliciting bids from Contractors to clean up and abate the offending property. She emphasized that when the community sees a condition like that to report it to her. She reiterated that she will be very proactive in dealing with matters like this. Laura encouraged them to send the address, APN number and other identifying information including photographs so that she can make a comprehensive input to Code Compliance. She added that she will, also, come out to the community and take additional photos so that the offending property is properly documented. After a bit of discussion regarding responsiveness of organizations, Laura advised that she can't do anything about things in the past, only now and in the future. In response to a question from another attendee, she commented that it shouldn't be a problem to get someone from Code Compliance to come to the RMAC meeting as a guest speaker. Laura agreed and Chairman Parkman made note of the request. Turning the discussion, she advised that she wanted to talk about solar but that she would not be addressing the Raceway 2.0 Solar Project since RMAC has it on the Agenda to discuss later in the meeting. She proceeded to talk about Zack Scrivner and the Board's actions as it relates to solar overall and the issues between Kern County and the State of California. She provided a recap of the history of solar and the actions that were taken by the state to incentivize solar installations in California including a very favorable position regarding property taxes on land developed by the solar industry. She noted that the program expired in 2014 and the State of California renewed the program and it is set to expire again in 2024. Laura noted that the Board of Supervisors is lobbying the State not to renew the program again when it expires in 2024. She added that this program is costing the County of Kern over fourteen million dollars every year (\$14,000,000.00) in lost tax revenue. Laura asked if anyone had noticed today that the County had filed a lawsuit against the State of California on the Governor's fracking policies. Turning to the issue of homelessness, Donna Morris asked what is being done to address this problem including the abuse of drugs and mental problems a lot of these people seem to have. Laura responded that it is a tough issue that seems to go forward a couple of steps and drops back one or two steps. She added that Adventist Health and Kern

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County Behavioral Health are very involved in trying to help with this problem but there is a general reluctance in the homeless community to go to formal places for treatment. So the problem is being worked and will continue to be worked to help these folks. In response to a question from Donna Morris, Laura agreed that RMAC could ask for a guest speaker from Adventist Health and KC Behavioral Health. With that, Laura relinquished the floor back to the Chair.

E. Rosamond Community Services District: No representative in attendance.

F. Rosamond Chamber of Commerce: Jack Miller advised that the Chamber of Commerce hosted the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Grocery Outlet in Rosamond. Gene Melchers, President, of the Chamber served as Master of Ceremonies. Jack noted that there was a very good turnout for the ceremony and the store tour. In closing his comments, Jack mentioned that September 25th is the Armed Forces Day parade with a 10:00 a.m. start in Rosamond. He noted that the sign-up form for the Parade has been posted on social media but if anyone has not received it or needs another copy, he has some available. One of the meeting attendees advised Jack that the Parade was on the same day as an event in a neighboring city. Jack responded that we always have that problem with folks scheduling over the top of us but we are going to proceed with the date we have selected. Lt Kraft and Jack conferred on the parade permit and Lt Kraft said he would follow up with the Mojave Sheriff's office.

G. Southern Kern Unified School District: No representative in attendance. John Joyce of the Rosamond News advised the Council that Mario Gutierrez was recognized for 20 years of service as a Trustee to the Southern Kern Unified School District School Board.

H. Antelope Valley Citizens for Responsible Use of Water: No representative in attendance. Chairman Parkman advised that he had some notes from Randy Scott but that he had failed to bring them with him to the meeting. He noted that his recollection is that there is no change in the current drought condition and no indication of when it will end.

I. Edwards Air Force Base (EAFB): No representative in attendance.

J. Others – Chairman Parkman asked if there were any other reports.

(1) The Kern Antelope Valley Historical Society advised that they are looking for old photographs and stories from the community as it relates to Rosamond and the surrounding communities. She provided a brief overview of some of the interesting people that reside or have resided in the community. John Joyce chimed in and advised that the Society is looking to establish a museum. He noted that the Society had approached the Rosamond Community Services District about three buildings they have in their possession. John noted that the stumbling block is the RCSD's attorney who has stated that the RCSD as a public entity cannot give away any property to the KAVHS for their use. He added that he thinks the RCSD needs to review their interpretations to see what they can do for these ladies and their historical work. John commented that he believed there should be something in State Law that would allow them to accommodate this request. Chairman Parkman agreed. John further noted that there is a new museum being built at the west gate of Edwards Air Force Base so there is an opportunity here that will help the museum in Rosamond to thrive from the spillover tourism. Chairman Parkman asked the KAVHS representative how much square footage of space they wanted for their museum. She advised that the building on Diamond Street was considered to be small while the site on 20th Street West was very big at 3,000 square feet. Francis Thompson said the property owned by a pot shop that is adjacent to the Old Johnson's Market would be the right size, right location and is a historical building in its own right as it was the Rosamond Post Office at one time.

(2) John Joyce informed the Council that the California High Speed Rail (CAHSR) Authority had accepted the Environmental Impact Report for the Bakersfield to Palmdale alignment. So this means it is a GO if they come up with the money. Chairman Parkman noted that the alignment is not or was not yet finalized. John responded that the CAHSRA has been publishing their maps in the Rosamond News and other places and he had asked how they were handling the negotiations for the land. He was informed that they would be using current assessments for the properties as a baseline and would, through Eminent Domain, procure the lands they need for their alignment. Chairman Parkman again emphasized that the alignment had not been approved by the Kern County Board of Supervisors so he thinks it still needs massaging.

8. Public Comment Period: None.

9. Business Meeting - Committee Reports - Ad Hoc Committees established for the following items:

A. Review of By-laws: Chairman Parkman and Directors Sanchez and Shoffner. Committee meetings to start on October 7, 2021.

10. Old Business:

A. Administration, office space, files and equipment - Live meetings resumed in Hummel Hall on 19 August 2021.

B. RMAC Goals and Project Status for 2019/2020/2021 - Only update is that Stage 2 of the Rosamond Boulevard Overpass/Eastbound Highway 14 exit is in active design and engineering status. It is not a near-term activity and will require funding once the design is complete. Estimate is four to five years.

C. Rosamond-Mojave Rehabilitation Project. Work is continuing and is scheduled to shift to northbound lanes with the southbound set of lines being split for use by both north and southbound traffic. **Speed limit remains 55.**

D. Brown Act/Ethics Training. New Directors and Incumbent Directors need to complete AB1234 Ethics Training. Brown Act Training will be set up for accomplishment through Zoom and based in Hummel Hall to facilitate training by County Counsel.

E. Road Repairs/Upkeep/Safety. Community was solicited to identify areas that require road repairs, upkeep or repaving in Rosamond and outlying areas (boundaries currently defined as Edwards AFB on the east, Avenue 'A' on the south, 190th Street on the west and Dawn Road on the north. Any unpaved streets that community residents believe should be paved can also be identified to the Council for feedback to the Public Works Roads Department.

F. Notice of Public Hearing before Kern County Board of Supervisors: Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for Raceway 2.0 Solar (AES) and Notice of Preparation for Amendments to the Rosamond South Solar Project 2.0 by Golden Fields Solar, LLC. Status Report - Chairman Parkman and Directors Sanchez and Shoffner. Chairman Parkman read aloud the proposed letter to the Kern County Board of Supervisors District-2 Supervisor Zack Scrivner. He asked if there were any questions, comments, clarifications or other modifications needed to the letter. A brief discussion ensued among the Directors after motion and seconding after which the letter was

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unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0 with 3 Directors absent. It was agreed to transmit the letter to the District-2 Office before close of business on Friday, August 20, 2021. A copy of the approved letter is provided as an attachment to these minutes.

11. New Business:

A. Trash/Debris in Rosamond: A general discussion of conditions in Rosamond area and proposed solutions. Director Sanchez indicated that Waste Management and the County was prepared to assist in this Project once the details are worked out by the Council. This would be a larger event than a bulk-waste disposal day and it is envisioned as a good cleanup of the entire community with participation by as many community organizations as possible. Chairman Parkman mentioned the Kern County Public Works website which has a section for reporting problems in the community whether roads, trash, etc. Laura Wyatt noted that if Rosamond wants to have a community-wide cleanup that she believed the County would be fully supportive of that effort and provide assistance. Discussion turned to the County Adopt-A-Highway program and it was noted that an area on Sierra Hwy was marked to indicate a local organization was cleaning that area. There was general agreement that it needs attention. It was determined that it was actually a state program and that it was administered by the County and the responsible organization. Francis Thompson brought up the "National Volunteer Day", a program that sets aside the last weekend in October for community activities such as cleanup. She would love to see the community do something along those lines on that weekend. Lisa Sanchez mentioned that September 11, 2021 was the next scheduled "RMAC/WM Bulk Trash Day". She encouraged the community to bring their old bulk items including old electronics to the WM Yard of Sierra Hwy. She emphasized that no hazardous materials will be taken at that site and should be taken to the Hazardous Waste Facility at the Mojave Airport on the first Saturday in November.

B. Director Training: Chairman Parkman noted it would be beneficial to the Council to provide orientation to the Directors on the Council in the duties of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. He stated that he would like to start this off with giving each Director an opportunity to serve as Chair in one of the Council's Monthly Meetings. To that end, Lisa Sanchez volunteered to serve as Chair for the September 16, 2021 meeting. Director Tim Blakeley is tentatively scheduled for the October 21, 2021 meeting.

C. California High Speed Rail Alignment: Kern County Planning advised that the alignment for the CAHSR from Bakersfield to Palmdale has not been finalized nor accepted by the Kern County Board of Supervisors. This was discussed earlier in the meeting and additional legwork is needed to determine status and where the community stands.

12. Director's Agenda Referrals: None.

13. Director's Comments:

Director Sanchez noted that it has been a long year and a half (or so it seems) since our last meeting in-person. She wanted to extend her appreciation to Laura Wyatt for all her efforts on behalf of the community. She remarked that Laura has always been available by phone whenever she had a question and that she was like everyone's BFF (Best Friend Forever) or Fairy Godmother. Lisa added that despite the pandemic, a lot of good things had happened in Rosamond through the efforts of many people including Laura despite some peoples' perception that the Council accomplishes very little. She noted that we have to keep pushing to fix things and to make Rosamond a great place to live. Chairman Parkman concurred in Lisa's assessment and added that the community and the country had weathered a lot of adversity in the past year due to the coronavirus but rather than tearing us apart, he feels that it has brought the community closer together. This country has been through a lot of bad times in the past and weathered them all including the "Great Depression in the late 1920s to the late 1930s"...which was so much worse to endure than what we have dealt with during this pandemic. Chairman Parkman noted that we are in a 50-50 world where 50 percent are for something and 50 percent are against it. People want to fight over masks and immunizations and, quite frankly, is a personal decision. If you love your fellow man, your neighbor, your kids, your grandkids then you are going to do what is right so that we all have a chance to thrive and survive. With that, Chairman Parkman asked for a nomination to adjourn the meeting. Francis Thompson posed a question to Laura Wyatt regarding funding for Libraries. Laura, in turn, advised that staffing for those facilities is the greatest funding concern. She added that there are several libraries that still have not opened and that she did not know how the Board of Supervisors were going to be able to fix the problem. Laura advised that the budget for libraries had been increased. Chairman Parkman noted that, at one time, the County was considering a "Public-Private Partnership" for libraries and he asked if the County was reconsidering that idea. Laura responded that she did not know. She then advised that this return to public meetings has caused all kinds of things to pop into her head. She advised that the County is looking at upgrading all the County Parks with WIFI "Hotspots". She discussed the concept at length and noted that it is a very much needed upgrade because there are many communities and areas with a large, un-served population that do not have access to the internet. This is a County goal and there is quite a bit of infrastructure work that will be necessary to extend that access to these parks.

14. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Donna Morris and seconded by Lisa Sanchez. The vote to adjourn was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Reminder: The next RMAC meeting will be held on October 21, 2021 at Hummel Hall at 7:00 p.m.

California Government Code, Section 31010: The Board of Supervisors of any county may by resolution establish and provide funds for the operation of a municipal advisory council for any unincorporated area in the county to advise the board on such matters which relate to that area as may be designated by the board concerning services which are or may be provided to the area by the county or other local governmental agencies, including but not limited to advice on matters of public health, safety, welfare, public works, and planning. Unless the board of supervisors specifically provides to the contrary, a municipal advisory council may represent the community to any state, county, city, special district or school district, agency or commission, or any other organization on any matter concerning the community. The board may pay from available funds such actual and necessary expenses of travel, lodging, and meals for the members of the council while on such official business as may be approved by the board.