

North Sonoma Valley Municipal Advisory Council

March 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Start: 6:00PM, delayed due to technical difficulties

Chair: Let us call the meeting to order. This is the SVMAC, and we will go ahead and get started thanking you for your patience we will not have video for the presentation. We will start with pledge of allegiance and then we will take roll.

Pena: We acknowledge that the citizens and community served by the NSVMAC occupy the unseeded ancestral lands of the Coast Miwok, closely related to neighboring indigenous peoples: Pomo, Wapo, and others. Asking forgiveness for past transgressions they and their ancestors experienced, we humbly invite them to join us in person or in spirit as we give gratitude for their ongoing stewardship of this place since time in memorial. Recognizing how much we benefit from their continuing presence as culture keepers and teachers, we commit ourselves to building positive and lasting relationships with out local indigenous community and to honor all the diverse peoples in our region.

Roll call: Dickey, Nardo Morgan, Pena, Newhouser, Eagles, Moretti

Councilwoman Hergert is delayed.

Absent: 2 excused absences (Hergert, Stark)

The Chair inquired whether the meeting was being broadcast on Zoom. Eagles also asked for confirmation regarding Zoom broadcasting.

Public Comment:

Arthur Dawson (Glen Ellen resident) addressed the committee, noting his continued advocacy for pedestrian-friendly initiatives. He referenced an October 10th letter sent to the county requesting a meeting that did not take place. Dawson suggested resending the letter, acknowledging changes in administration, but proposing that the original letter could be resent with updated names and a new date.

The Chair agreed that resending the letter was a good idea and suggested reaching out to the Supervisor's office to facilitate the meeting. Angela asked whether a new letter should be drafted, to which Dawson responded that updating the original letter with current details should suffice.

The Chair confirmed that a copy of the letter is available and could either be provided electronically or resubmitted through Supervisor Hermosillo's office. The Chair emphasized that significant time had passed, and an acknowledgment should be received.

Eagles reminded the group that this discussion was not on the agenda. The Chair acknowledged this point.

Dawson reiterated that resubmitting the original letter with a note indicating it is a second submission would be the best course of action. The Chair agreed, affirming Angela's recommendation.

The Chair then invited any additional public comments. Seeing none in the audience, they asked if there were any raised hands-on Zoom.

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Tamayo confirmed that there were no hands raised.

Brown Act Presentation

The Chair introduced the next agenda item, a presentation on the Brown Act. They noted that while the topic might be more detailed than some audience members anticipated, it is critical for ensuring that the committee operates within legal parameters for information sharing.

The Chair welcomed Petra Bruggisser from Sonoma County Counsel to provide a presentation.

Bruggisser thanked the committee for the invitation and noted that while she did not have a visual presentation available, she would provide it afterward. She acknowledged that the material might be dry but encouraged an interactive discussion, inviting attendees to ask questions at any time to help facilitate engagement.

So, the question is, what is the legislative body? And that's defined as the Commission Committee, board, or other body of a local agency with a permanent or temporary decision-making advisory created by charter, ordinance, resolution, or formal actions of the legislative body. So, this council was created, established by the Board of Supervisors. It's primarily advisory in nature, and so this body is subject to the Brown Act or the meetings that councils have.

Sometimes the legislative bodies like to have committees within their councils, there to work on specific issues and subject matters and have smaller groups basically come together and work on specific issues, and questions arise whether those smaller meetings are subject to brown requirements or not. And it depends. There are 2 types. Typically, there is a standing committee and an ad hoc committee.

The difference is, standing committees have an ongoing term continuing subject matter, jurisdiction about what the Council is about, and they must meet subject to the brown act. So even the smaller subcommittees do.

An ad hoc committee is only temporary, has maybe just a single purpose, a very specific question that has come up, that the Council wants to study by designating a few people, and they can meet a less than a majority of Council members can meet and don't have to apply and go by the Brown Act requirement, so they can meet, you know, without the agenda. Notice, not with the public being present. If it's an ad hoc committee.

Eagles: For the Ad Hoc Committees we have been under the impression that it must be less than the majority?

Petra: Yes, it does. Did I say more than a majority?

Eagles: I just wanted to be clear it was subject to that rule. committee any longer that it would be meeting of the entire council meeting.

Petra: A meeting basically is what we're here today. It's a congregation of Member majority. at the same time, at the same place to hear, discuss, and deliberate, or act on any item that is within the subject matter. Restriction of this council. So anytime a majority comes together, you have a meeting. You need to agendize and follow all the brown act rules.

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As I said, meetings of the body shall be noticed open and public outside any notice. Agenda meeting. Outside The majority of the Council should not get together and that would be against the brown act. that includes a series of communications which are prohibited. And again, in my slide, I have, you know, illustrated text message, phone messages, emails. It doesn't really matter what it is.

Discussion on Brown Act Compliance

Email & Text Communications Among Council Members

- Moretti inquired about issues related to committee member communications and the Brown Act.
- Petra explained that sequential communications (calls, texts, emails) among council members discussing jurisdictional matters can constitute an impermissible meeting under the Brown Act.
- Moretti highlighted that distribution lists could also be problematic if they include most of the body.
- Petra emphasized that council members should avoid discussing official matters via email.

Quorum Considerations & Ad Hoc Committees

- Moretti shared an example from the Kenwood Fire Board, where communication restrictions led to an increase in board size.
- Angela asked about communication rules for ad hoc committees.
- Petra clarified that communication is permissible within an ad hoc committee as long as it involves fewer members than a quorum.
- Chair reaffirmed that limiting ad hoc committees to three members helps avoid Brown Act violations.

Public Participation in Ad Hoc Committees

- Arthur asked whether public members can be part of ad hoc committees. (Chair allowed member of public to ask question)
- Petra stated that ad hoc committees, as set up by the council, typically do not include public members but can gather input from the public.
- Chair clarified that while public members cannot be official committee members, they can be consulted for information.
- Petra agreed, emphasizing the importance of maintaining the distinction between ad hoc committee members and public consultation.
- Ad hoc committees must operate within Brown Act guidelines.

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- Council members should avoid informal serial communications that could be considered meetings.
- Public members cannot be official ad hoc committee members but can provide input.
- **Restrictions on Council Members:**
 - **(Petra)** Council members cannot discuss council business on their personal social media accounts, including Facebook and Instagram.
 - **(Petra)** Engaging with another member's posts by liking, commenting, or reacting with emojis is also considered communication and is not allowed.
 - **(Angela & Petra)** Members can communicate on personal matters, such as complimenting someone's attire, as this does not pertain to council business.
- **Personal vs. Official Accounts:**
 - **(Petra)** If a council member uses their personal account to post, repost, or share council business, that account must remain open to public comments.
 - **(Petra)** Deleting comments, blocking users, or restricting engagement on such posts would violate public access rules.
 - **(Petra)** Best practice is to maintain separate personal and official accounts to avoid legal complications.
- **Community-Related Posts:**
 - **(Kate & Petra)** There is ambiguity when council-related topics naturally blend into broader community discussions.
 - **(Petra)** Each case should be evaluated individually, but members should be cautious about how they engage in these conversations.

Public Engagement & Advertising

- **Advertising Council Business:**
 - **(Chair & Petra)** If a newspaper publishes content about council matters, it does not become subject to the same public record requirements as council members' social media accounts.
 - **(Matthew & Petra)** When council members post about official business, public comments must be maintained and cannot be deleted, as they become part of the public record.
- **Public Comment & Meeting Procedures:**
 - **(Petra)** Meeting agendas must be posted **72 hours** in advance for regular meetings and **24 hours** for special meetings.

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- **(Petra)** Materials distributed to council members within 72 hours of a meeting must also be made publicly available.
- **(Petra)** Council members cannot discuss topics that are not on the agenda to ensure transparency and allow public participation.
- **(Petra)** Public comment is required in every meeting, with speakers typically given **one to two minutes**, though the council can set time limits.
- **(Petra)** Non-English speakers must be allowed double the speaking time to accommodate translation needs.

Handling Disruptions in Meetings

- **Maintaining Order:**

- **(Chair & Petra)** If disruptions occur, the council may issue warnings to attendees whose behavior is interfering with the meeting.
- **(Matthew & Chair)** If disruptions persist and threaten order, law enforcement may be called to intervene.
- **(RH & Chair)** If order cannot be restored, the meeting may be adjourned, and council members will leave the meeting space. Staff will later retrieve materials left behind.

- **Zoom Disruptions:**

- **(Angela & Petra)** The same warning protocols apply to virtual disruptions.
- **(Chair & Petra)** If a virtual disruption occurs, the meeting may need to be temporarily shut down and restarted.
- **(RH & Petra)** County Supervisors have moved to eliminate public comment via Zoom to prevent such issues, though the council has not made that decision yet.

- **Final Considerations:**

- **(Chair & Matthew)** The council aims to balance public access with maintaining order and avoiding disruptions.
- **(RH)** Additional guidance on virtual meeting protocols will be provided to the council in the future.

Teleconferencing Rules & Brown Act Compliance

- **Traditional Teleconferencing Rules:**

- **(Petra)** Unless there is a proclaimed emergency, council members who wish to participate remotely must comply with either traditional Brown Act rules or newer, more complex teleconferencing rules established during COVID-19.

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- **(Petra)** Traditional Brown Act teleconferencing requirements allow members to appear remotely as long as a quorum is physically present within the jurisdiction.
- **(Petra)** The teleconference location must be identified in the notice and agenda, with the agenda posted at each teleconference location.
- **(Petra)** Locations must be accessible to the public, and all votes must be conducted by roll call.
- **(Petra)** If a member teleconferences from home, they must publicly post their address, post the agenda at their residence, and allow the public into their home.
- **Challenges of Traditional Rules:**
 - **(Kate)** Asked if the agenda must be physically posted at the teleconference location.
 - **(Petra)** Confirmed that it must be posted.
 - **(Moretti)** Noted the difficulty of compliance, especially when traveling—e.g., needing to make a hotel room accessible to the public.
 - **(Matthew)** Clarified that these rules apply to commission members when voting but not when simply monitoring proceedings.
 - **(Petra)** Confirmed that if a member is only monitoring a meeting without participating, they are counted as absent and do not need to follow teleconferencing rules.

New COVID-Era Teleconferencing Rules

- **(Petra)** These rules were introduced to make remote participation easier and are set to expire on **January 1, 2026** unless extended by legislation.
- **(Petra)** The quorum must still be physically present within the jurisdiction, but remote participation is allowed for **just cause** or **emergency situations**.
- **(Petra)** The public must be able to participate remotely if remote participation is granted to a council member.
- **(Petra)** No limit on the number of times these exceptions can be used, but all votes must be conducted by roll call.
- **(Petra)** Just cause reasons (e.g., illness, childcare, caregiving) must be disclosed in advance, while emergency situations must be approved at the meeting.
- **Requirements for Remote Participation:**
 - **(Petra)** The member must publicly disclose their location and whether anyone **18 years or older** is present.
 - **(Petra)** The member **must remain on camera** throughout the meeting.

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- **(Eagles)** Asked if a still picture could be used instead.
- **(Petra)** Confirmed that members must be visible on live video.
- **Special Cases & Approvals:**
 - **(Angela)** Asked whether traveling qualifies for remote participation.
 - **(Petra)** Stated that travel may be considered an emergency situation if approved by the council.
 - **(Chair)** Asked who has the authority to approve remote participation.
 - **(Petra)** The council must approve it, but she will confirm whether the chair alone can grant approval.
 - **(Kate)** Mentioned that past precedent exists where addresses were published even when not required.
 - **(Chair)** Asked whether teleconferencing rules could be made permanent.
 - **(Petra)** Noted that this is something to monitor, as remote public participation may continue even after current rules sunset.

Public Access & Brown Act Violations

- **Remote Public Participation:**
 - **(Petra)** If a council member uses teleconferencing, the public must also be given remote participation options.
 - **(Petra)** The council has the discretion to allow or restrict public comments in remote meetings.
- **Social Media Accessibility:**
 - **(Petra)** Council members discussing official matters on social media must use publicly accessible platforms.
 - **(Petra)** Private groups like Facebook Groups or Nextdoor cannot be used for council discussions.
- **Brown Act Violations & Corrections:**
 - **(Petra)** If a violation is alleged, the council typically has an opportunity to **cure and correct** the issue by re-agendizing and re-taking action.
 - **(Petra)** Failure to properly cure a violation may lead to civil action.
- **Closing Remarks:**
 - **(Petra)** Thanked the attendees, acknowledging the complexity of these rules and ongoing legislative changes.

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Angela: What do you do if you violate the Brown Act? I need to know what I'm up against. You just have to leave the council, or what is the?

Petra: It's potential penalties. Violation could be civil violations. You mean penalty. It could be a criminal penalty.

Moretti: but one remedy would be that the action that was taken at the meeting isn't about it.

Petra: It could be, it depends on what the potential brown act violation was but that might be a possibility.

Angela: Are there people in prison that have violated the brown act? I am assuming.

Petra: I do not have that information.

- **(Kate)** Asked if emailing fellow council members about a personal matter (e.g., planning a gift) would be considered a violation and whether communication should go through Anna and the Supervisor's office.
- **(Petra)** Clarified that **purely personal** matters are not subject to the Brown Act, but any business-related discussion should go through Anna.
- **(Chair)** Stated that informal planning for an annual celebration (e.g., assigning snacks) is not official business but acknowledged the distinction can be tricky.
- **(Petra)** Agreed, noting that the distinction between personal and official business is important.

Final Audience Questions

- **(Chair)** Opened the floor for audience questions.
- **(Arthur Dawson)** Asked whether these rules apply to **legislative bodies, advisory bodies, or the executive branch**.
- **(Petra)** Stated she could not speak on how the Governor's office operates.
- **(RH)** Explained that some branches of government are subject to Brown Act rules, but **the federal government is not**. He advised erring on the side of caution to avoid the appearance of impropriety.
- **(Chair)** Asked if there were any online questions.
- **(Anna)** Confirmed there were none.

Closing Remarks

- **(Chair)** Thanked Petra for her time and the attendees for their participation.

Review of Last Year's Annual Report

The Chair introduced the agenda item, acknowledging Martin for preparing the report and Kate for her input.

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Presenter: Martin

Martin provided an overview of the annual report, summarizing the council's activities over the past year, including:

- Continued role as a bridge between the community and Sonoma County government.
- Leadership and membership changes: Mark was elected Chair in October, Martin was elected Vice Chair in December, and new members Cheryl, Jennifer, and August joined. The council currently has eight out of nine allocated members, leaving one vacancy.
- The departure of Supervisor Gorin in December, marked by a presentation and farewell.
- Common themes in discussions over the past year: transportation and infrastructure, emergency preparedness and evacuation, planning, housing and land use, community improvement projects, and government and community engagement.
- Priorities for 2025 include engagement in the Sonoma County Demo Plan, collaboration on traffic safety, continued advocacy for responsible land use at SDC, and strategic planning with Supervisor Hermosillo.

Discussion:

- Kate suggested adding a bullet under housing and land use regarding a letter sent to Will Lyons on March 19, 2024, concerning the SDC redevelopment plan.
- Chair and council members agreed to incorporate the revision and finalize the document accordingly.
- The council clarified that the report is a received item and does not require a vote.

Discussion on Funding and Grants

The council discussed financial allocations for the Firehouse Triangle Beautification Project.

- Clarification on Funding:
 - \$9,000 was secured from the MAC budget.
 - \$20,000 came from the County CIF Fund.
 - Both checks were payable to the Glen Ellen Forum for project execution.
 - The forum served as the lead agency for the project.
- Additional Discussion Points:
 - Members debated whether to specify funding sources explicitly in the report for future reference.

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- It was noted that ad hoc committees, such as the General Plan Ad Hoc and Transportation Ad Hoc, should be included in the report for historical context.
 - The Chair confirmed that past annual reports are archived, and efforts will be made to ensure accessibility.
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4. Public Comment on the Annual Report

The Chair invited public comment. No objections or additional input were received.

5. Financial and Operational Matters

- Funding for Future Projects:
 - Discussion on whether additional discretionary funds are available for community projects before the fiscal year ends.
 - Clarification on whether funds could be used for community outreach and improvements.
 - Future agenda items to include discussions on potential fund allocations.
- Administrative Matters:
 - No rent is being paid for the meeting space.
 - The council is in the process of hiring a minute taker. In the interim, county staff will handle transcriptions.
- Discussion on Hosting a Public Listening Session:
 - RH raised the possibility of using available funds to rent a hall for a public listening session on land use projects, pending County Council approval.
 - Matthew supported the idea, suggesting collaboration with the CAC, which struggles with discretionary funding for rentals.
 - RH noted that while decisions are not made by the MAC, a MAC representative provides feedback to the SVCAC, which does have land use jurisdiction. A structured approach could ensure compliance with public hearing limitations.
 - Mark suggested a presentation on public meeting constraints, acknowledging their impact on the community.
 - Matthew proposed addressing the topic in council member reports and announcements if time permits.
 - Mark confirmed the item was closed and noted the importance of keeping meetings within the planned two-hour duration.

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Agenda Item: Review Letter to the Board of Supervisors on Funding Support for Immigrant Services

Discussion:

Mark introduced the agenda item, noting that Martin had written a letter acknowledging the Board of Supervisors for their funding support for immigrant services. Copies of the letter were distributed to members, but it was not displayed on-screen.

Martin provided background information, stating that on February 4th, the Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to allocate \$500,000 to support undocumented immigrants and refugees. He emphasized that the commission often communicates with the county in a critical manner, and this letter served as an opportunity to express gratitude. He proposed sending the letter as a form of validation for the Board's decision.

Angela expressed her support for the letter, commending Martin for taking the initiative.

Anna Tamayo inquired if this was an editing situation, suggesting that the commission could vote on sending the letter at the next meeting.

Mark clarified that the agenda listed the letter under "Receive," which he interpreted as allowing them to proceed without a vote. He opened the floor for comments or suggestions from members and the public. No additional input was provided.

Kate sought confirmation on whether the letter could be sent immediately since it was listed as a "Receive" item. RH noted that it should have been categorized as a resolution and suggested it could be an action item.

Mark acknowledged the oversight, stating that the intent was for this to be a resolution rather than a receive item. Tamayo provided an example from the previous meeting, explaining that minor miscommunications could be clarified in the record.

For the record, Mark formally stated that this agenda item was intended as a resolution. He proceeded with authorizing the letter to be sent as written and called for a motion to approve.

Motion:

- Angela moved to approve the letter for submission.
- Eagles seconded the motion.

Outcome:

The motion passed, and the letter will be submitted with assistance from Anna Tamayo to ensure it is placed on the appropriate letterhead.

Agenda Item: County Report Out

Discussion:

Mark introduced the county report out, noting that there were approximately seven Municipal

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Advisory Councils (MACs) in West County alone. The meeting served as a listening session where the county, with the help of a facilitator, gathered feedback from various MAC representatives, including chairs, vice chairs, and former chairs. Several members from the commission, including Kate and Cheryl, attended.

Participants engaged in breakout sessions to discuss different issues, particularly regarding the proposed guidelines for MACs. The discussion focused on clarifying procedural roles, supporting local development, and understanding the day-to-day functions of MACs. The feedback collected during the meeting was summarized in a report that was disseminated to attendees.

Kate Eagles shared that attendees widely agreed on the need for such meetings to occur regularly. A key takeaway was the county website's functionality, which could be improved to better serve MACs. She also highlighted the diversity among MACs, noting significant differences in geographic scope, meeting agendas, and funding mechanisms. Some MACs had access to specific funding sources, such as casino agreements, while others had no funding and sought alternative ways to secure grants. The discussions generated curiosity about different funding models and best practices.

August noted the diversity among MACs in terms of financial resources and operational capacities. A major discussion point was how to effectively communicate MACs' roles to the community. Advertising in local newspapers, such as the Kenwood Press, was one proposed strategy to raise awareness and encourage public engagement.

Mark emphasized that MACs have different mandates and constraints, which dictate the issues they can address. He provided an example where Supervisor Susan Gorham granted discretion to address a land use issue, even though such matters typically fall outside their purview. Some MAC leaders expressed concerns about handling financial responsibilities, while others leveraged fundraising and partnerships to secure project funding. The session highlighted a need for more guidance and transparency on funding options and best practices.

The discussion also touched on the county's Best Practices Manual, which many found lacking in detail. There was widespread interest in expanding the manual to provide clearer onboarding procedures, funding guidelines, and training opportunities for new MAC members. Mark introduced the term "onboarding," which refers to the process of integrating new members and familiarizing them with MAC operations. Many attendees expressed interest in developing more structured onboarding support, including funding and mentorship programs.

To follow up, Mark proposed that members review the meeting summary and highlight key points relevant to their MAC. These insights could be compiled into requests for county support. Rebecca noted that the county staff member responsible for the manual was on vacation, delaying updates. She also pointed out procedural gaps, such as the lack of standardized onboarding processes, training reminders, and even basic resources like updated MAC rosters.

Mark acknowledged that the county received numerous requests for additional support, transparency, and procedural clarity—some of which were presented forcefully. He recognized the challenge of addressing these concerns in a comprehensive manner. The discussion concluded with an agreement to revisit key topics in future meetings.

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Public Comment:

No public comments were made.

District 1 update

Supervisor Rebecca Hermosillo officially introduced her team:

- Anna Tamayo – Based in Santa Rosa office; lead on SVCAC and North Valley MAC.
- Jessica – Works in Sonoma Valley office, managing the Supervisor’s calendar.
- Betsy Chavez – Sonoma Valley office; handles the Springs MAC.
- Katie Mason – District Director; based in Santa Rosa office (not present at the meeting).

The team aims to be highly responsive and active in the community. Supervisor Hermosillo noted an initial backlog of emails upon taking office but assured that urgent matters should be resent if necessary.

Ad Hoc Committee Insights:

Supervisor Hermosillo and Betsy attended the Unincorporated Governance Ad Hoc meeting, highlighting differences in MAC operations. Key points included:

- Some MACs fully fund staff positions through TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax) funds.
 - County employees manage certain MACs, but not all structures allow for direct funding of employees.
 - Efforts are underway to increase transparency and establish standardized rosters and systems for MAC operations.
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Homelessness Task Force:

Supervisor Hermosillo acknowledged an increase in unhoused individuals. Actions taken include:

- Collaboration with law enforcement to address specific cases.
 - Convening a Homelessness Task Force to assess needs and resources.
 - Engaging with local service providers to ensure better support.
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Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD):

Supervisor Hermosillo committed to continuing work on an EIFD initiative to retain local tax dollars for infrastructure development.

Immigration & Community Support:

Key initiatives and discussions:

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- Hosted an immigration meeting in Sonoma Valley with a high turnout (~50-60 attendees).
- Identified service gaps for immigrant communities and committed \$500,000 in funding to Secure Communities Collaboration.
- Addressed concerns about ICE activities in the county, including providing legal resources and advocacy guidance.
- Encouraged labeling private property and understanding legal rights related to ICE enforcement.
- Discussed leveraging federal relationships to better support immigrant communities.
- Supervisor Hermosillo created a comprehensive step-by-step guide on resources for undocumented individuals, which includes:
 - A bilingual (English & Spanish) resource guide outlining legal steps and advocacy efforts.
 - A “Give the Government a Call” sheet listing representatives and contact details.
 - A No-ICE guide to help individuals understand their rights.
- The guide will be distributed to community members, and Sonoma Immigrant Services may be invited to speak at future meetings.
- A public commenter suggested including information for small and local businesses regarding protections and best practices.
- Discussion on the Sunflower Safe Haven Movement, an initiative using sunflowers to discreetly signal safe spaces for immigrants.

ICE Activity Report:

- Discussion on a recent ICE operation at the probation office, where an individual was detained in an unmarked van after their release from jail.
- ICE often uses publicly available information to track releases, raising concerns about access to records.
- Community members discussed the importance of private property protections:
 - Undocumented individuals can remain safe in privately labeled spaces.
 - Property owners do not need to open the door without a properly signed warrant.
 - Two types of warrants exist—only those signed by a judge require compliance.

General Plan Update:

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- Several upcoming meetings on the General Plan, including in-person and virtual options.
 - Encouraged MAC members to amplify outreach efforts to ensure diverse community participation.
 - Discussion on providing a timeline and categorized schedule for General Plan topics.
 - Historical context: The last General Plan update was in 2008, and substantial changes in the county require broad engagement.
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Funding Allocation Discussion:

- The \$500,000 allocation for immigration support was directed to Secure Communities Collaboration based on existing county contracts.
 - The funding will be distributed through grant applications following a needs assessment.
 - Concerns were raised about ensuring equitable access for isolated communities.
 - Efforts are underway to ensure local nonprofits understand how to access these resources.
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Concluding Action Items:

1. MAC Engagement: Ensure continued outreach and participation in the General Plan process.
2. Homelessness Task Force: Conduct regular meetings and improve coordination with service providers.
3. EIFD Development: Continue efforts to secure local infrastructure funding.
4. Immigration Services Awareness: Increase outreach on available legal and advocacy resources, including distributing the step-by-step guide.
5. General Plan Scheduling: Provide a structured schedule outlining topics and engagement opportunities.
6. Small Business Support: Include business-specific resources in immigration-related outreach efforts.

SVCAC Chair Matthew Dickey's Update on the Sonoma Valley Citizens Advisory Commission (SVCAC)

Introduction & Overview:

Matthew Dickey, Chair of SVCAC, provided an update on the Commission's role and recent discussions. He emphasized that SVCAC holds land use review authority, which differentiates its responsibilities from those of the local MAC.

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Roadway Conditions & Funding:

- The most recent SVCAC meeting included a presentation by the Department of Public Works on road conditions and funding.
 - Findings revealed that roadways are deteriorating more rapidly than before, with funding far below the amount needed for necessary repairs.
 - Heavy truck usage after wildfire-related debris removal and reconstruction has worsened road conditions, but no clear remedies exist at this time.
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Builder's Remedy & Development Concerns:

- Scott Orr from Permit Sonoma will present on the **Builder's Remedy** legislation and its implications for the county.
 - The Builder's Remedy, originally proposed to streamline development in urban areas, has raised concerns about reduced transparency and limited community input in rural regions.
 - There are currently two active Builder's Remedy applications in Sonoma County, following Hannah's withdrawal of their proposal.
 - Matthew requested that **Our Neighborhood Voices**, a nonprofit group, be invited to provide additional insights into state-level legislative efforts expanding developer rights.
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Insurance & Non-Renewal Issues:

- Many residents, particularly in Glen Ellen, face difficulties with insurance non-renewals.
 - SVCAC is working to bring in **United Policyholders**, a consumer advocacy group, to educate the public on their rights and dispute options regarding non-renewals.
 - The goal is to improve transparency in insurance decisions and explore collective community responses.
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Evacuation Planning & Public Engagement:

- A recent **evacuation plan presentation** was well-received, but legal constraints limit discussions about evacuation in relation to specific developments like SDC.
- There is ongoing discussion on how SVCAC can address general evacuation preparedness without violating legal restrictions related to the Builder's Remedy.
- Supervisor Hermosillo suggested that community members attend broader public safety meetings to learn about evacuation procedures without impacting the formal SVCAC meeting count.

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Meeting Limitations & Transparency Concerns:

- The **five-meeting limit** imposed by the Builder's Remedy legislation has caused confusion regarding how and when public input can be incorporated into land use decisions.
 - Concerns were raised that developers are applying this five-meeting restriction broadly, potentially reducing community transparency and engagement in various projects.
 - Supervisor Hermosillo confirmed that county counsel is actively reviewing the legalities of the five-meeting cap and looking for solutions to maximize community input.
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Future Agenda Topics & Suggestions:

- Potential guest speakers include **CalFire**, **Caltrans**, and other county representatives on road infrastructure and public safety.
 - Interest in a joint MAC-SVCAC meeting to ensure broader representation and discussion on critical issues.
 - Discussion on groundwater concerns, with a proposal to invite Marcus Estrada for a presentation.
 - Exploring funding opportunities for community meetings focused on land use education.
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Conclusion & Next Steps:

- The next NSVMAC meeting is confirmed.
- Further discussions will continue on advertising and outreach to maximize public engagement.
- Meeting adjourned with a unanimous vote.