

CRESTON ADVISORY BODY

Meeting Minutes

Creston Community Center – 5110 Swayze St, Creston

Wednesday, September 18th, 2024 7:00 – 9:30 PM

Creston Advisory Body Contact – CrestonAB@gmail.com

Meetings scheduled on the 3rd Wednesday of each month except December.

Chairperson – Sheila Lyons Vice Chair – Kurt Almond Treasurer – Roy Barba Secretary – rotating duty

1) Call to Order – Flag Salute at 7:03 pm.

Members Present were Michael Aarons, Jim Wortner, Thomas Edel, Kurt Almond and Roy Barba Absent: Don Clark, Matt Lynge & Sheila Lyons

2) CAB Recorder for this meeting is Kurt Almond.

3) Minutes of the previous meeting (July, Roy)

All CAB approved minutes are posted at crestonadvisorybody.com

4) Limited Public and/or CAB Member Comments for Items NOT on the agenda
CAB Members and Debbie discussed various issues including waste management, road projects, traffic statistics, and the increasing activity by Caltrans in addressing encampments. They also addressed concerns about water supplies for fighting fires and the proposed offshore wind projects in San Luis Obispo County. Lastly, they discussed the representation and management of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, the dissolution of certain districts, and the potential closure of a school due to low attendance.

CAB Members reported on various issues including a family disturbance, a missing person, a vehicle accident, and the progress of ongoing projects such as the Western Road LLC project. He also discussed the legal battle regarding a property owned by Compass Real Estate, suggesting that the company's intentions were to increase the property's value through a permit. CAB Members also highlighted the distance restrictions for facilities near schools in New California, expressing concern about a proposed 58,000 square foot facility's proximity to a school and potential issues with odors and chemicals.

Traffic Statistics and Homeless Encampment Update

Lieutenant Chandler Stewart presented a report on traffic statistics for the month of July, highlighting a decrease in crashes and DUI arrests compared to the previous year. He also noted two fatal collisions in the Shandon area, one of which involved multiple DUI drivers. CAB Members further discussed an issue regarding a growing encampment of homeless people under a bridge on 41 east, which had been cleared out by Caltrans since their last meeting. He raised concerns about the potential hazards posed by parked cars on the side of the freeway and the difficulty of addressing the issue due to the encampment being on private property. The Lieutenant also discussed the increased activity by Caltrans in addressing encampments along freeway easements, which had previously been handled

by contract communication. Caltrans is now taking more assertive actions and will be providing weekly updates on the camps they are targeting. CAB Members also mentioned the potential benefits of having motor officers in the area, particularly for enforcement of distracted driving and seatbelt tickets. Additionally, he noted that the helicopter at Paso Robles is now spending more time on general patrol and traffic enforcement, including issuing citations, a practice that had been scaled back in recent years due to officer shortages.

Cal Fire - Fire Captain – Jesse Ryan or Chad Mitchell –

Cal Fire's Call Volume and Fire Management Challenges

Cal Fire reported a high call volume over the past month, with 65 calls, 21 vegetation fires, 14 traffic collisions, 24 medical aids, and 3 other calls. He noted a significant increase in traffic collisions compared to the previous year. Cal Fire also discussed the challenges of managing water supplies for fighting fires, as the station relies on volunteers and has had to travel to different locations to assist. He mentioned ongoing issues with the structure and labeling of fire zones, and the potential financial responsibility for response costs if a fire is deemed negligent. Lastly, he shared about a bulldozer rollover incident in Cambria and the difficulties in training and qualifying new operators

6) Fifth District Supervisor Report–Supervisor Debbie Arnold – Zoom Supervisor's Meeting and Fire Safe Council Update

CAB Members informed the team about an upcoming meeting with Supervisor Arnold and Eric on the 27th. Debbie then provided an update on the Fire Safe Council's performance, highlighting their success in securing financial resources and introducing new members. She also mentioned the approval of a 72-unit apartment building in Nipomo and the appointment of a new undersheriff. Furthermore, she discussed some controversies, including the restriction of public use of county equipment and the use of eminent domain to complete the preferred alignment for the Bob Jones trail extension.

Offshore Wind Projects and Local Concerns

Debbie discussed the proposed offshore wind projects in San Luis Obispo County, expressing concerns about their potential impact on the coastline and the lack of local input in decision-making. She indicated that the projects would require significant support infrastructure and that private properties would likely be used for connecting the utility lines. Debbie also encouraged constituents to stay informed about the projects' progress and potential safety concerns. She expressed uncertainty about the decision-making process and hinted at sharing more information on September 10th.

Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Committee Concerns

Debbie expressed her frustration regarding the representation and management of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin. She and her fellow representatives, John Peshong and Murray, have been excluded from the cooperative committee for an extended period, despite their efforts to safeguard the basin. The issue stems from the El Pomar Water

District being conditioned to never become part of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Cooperative Committee, yet they were recently brought on as an "outside investor", giving them a majority vote. Debbie believes this violates the original conditions and is operating the committee illegally. She remains hopeful that a court case will resolve the issue and is in the process of educating Heather about the situation.

Debbie expressed her frustration with the current state of affairs in the county, particularly regarding the dissolution of certain districts and the potential annexation of land by the San Juan Water District. She also highlighted the lack of transparency and communication within the system. In response to CAB Members's concern about the proximity of cannabis cultivation facilities to schoolyards, Debbie agreed and suggested that this could be a potential angle to address the issue. She also mentioned a pending withdrawal notice for a water user who has not been able to supply water for their claimed use.

School Closure, Farewell Event, and Cannabis Ordinance

Debbie and CAB Members discussed the potential closure of a school due to low attendance, but noted that attendance had improved, preventing the school from being closed.. Additionally, they deliberated on a cannabis ordinance that Debbie was not in favor of. Lastly, they decided to honor Debbie Arnold, a former supervisor, with a commemorative brick or plaque through the Garden Club to recognize her dedication and to send a message to the incoming supervisor about the community's appreciation for her service.

7) Planning Department Update & Project Referrals - CAB Liaison-Lane Sutherland Lane to follow up on updates regarding the Verizon Towers project.

Lane to investigate and report on the permit status for construction at the former J.Lohr vineyard site.

Thomas to send Lane the address of the property in question regarding potential unpermitted construction.

CAB Members requested updates on these issues and asked for assistance in monitoring the situation. He also expressed concern about the Harvest Host Amendment, which he believed had been rushed through without proper input, and highlighted a potential violation of code by offering additional nights at an expense. CAB Members emphasized the importance of the liaison's role in reporting back on issues affecting CAB Members.

a. Cannabis projects update – Jim Wortner.

8) Unfinished Business – They also discussed the upcoming departure of a deputy and the proposal of a farewell event in January before she leaves for a new position in March

9) New

It was agreed that CAB will donate \$85 towards a brick honoring Supervisor Arnold's 12 year's of service and her unwavering support of the Creston Community. Unanimous vote.

Jim to coordinate ordering a commemorative brick for Supervisor Debbie Arnold through the Garden Club.

Jim to draft a letter of recognition for Supervisor Debbie Arnold.

CAB to invite Supervisor Debbie Arnold to the October meeting for recognition.

CAB to consider inviting other supervisors and representatives (e.g. Dawn Addis) to future meetings.

CAB members to prepare questions and concerns to discuss with invited officials at future meetings.

CAB to monitor developments regarding the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin management and voting structure.

11) Committee Reports/Next Steps (5-10 min each as needed) –

a. By-Laws – Sheila L. & Thomas E. - N/A

b. Elections – Sheila, Susan S. (public) – N/A

c. Public Information – Roy Barba, Tom Edel & Mike Aarons, Kurt Almond A. – N/A

12) Treasurer's Report – Roy Barba our account has a balance of \$1655.90.

13) Additional Limited Public Comment period – (3 minutes each)

N/A

15) Adjournment by approximately 8:15 p.m. Unanimous

CRESTON MEETING 9/18/24

DATE:	PROBLEM:	LOCATION:
8/21	AUDIBLE ALARM	ODONAVAN
8/23	CIVIL PROBLEM	ODONAVAN
8/25	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	LA PANZA
8/26	NEIGHBOR DISTURBANCE	LANDMARK
8/29	CHECK THE WELFARE	AMBER HILLS
8/29	PROBATION ACTIVITY	YOSEMITE PLACE
8/30	DISTURBANCE OF PEACE	ODONAVAN
8/31	CHECK THE WELFARE	LA PANZA
9/01	CHECK THE WELFARE	HWY 41 EAST
9/04	RURAL DETAIL	CALF CANYON
9/04	ASSIST OTHER AGENCY	LA PANZA
9/05	AUDIBLE ALARM	ROCKY CANYON
9/06	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	CALF CANYON
9/06	SUSPICIOUS SUBJECT	LA PANZA
9/06	TRESPASSING	BLUE ROAD
9/07	FAMILY DISTURBANCE	HUER HUERO
9/07	DISTURBANCE OF PEACE	BLUE ROAD
9/12	ASSIST ANOTHER AGENCY	CALF CANYON
9/15	DISTURBANCE OF PEACE	ODONAVAN
9/15	CHECK THE WELFARE	ODONAVAN

MATT BARKSDALE

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The Creston Advisory Body

Meeting Attendee Sign-In Sheet

Date: Sept. 18, 2024

Name (Printed)	Address	Phone	E-Mail
ROGER JANAKUS	5225 Hwy 41	805-238-4777	ROGER@STANUEL VINEYARDS CA
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Lacey ZUBAK	7575 MALCOLM'S GROVE	4169-525-0166	LACEY@KIFACONVERT.COM
Tanya Marshall	5995 Almond	805-2910-2603	tanya_marshall@gmail.com
Jessica Thompson	6905 Gray Squire Ln	805 610-8410	spurtranch@gmail.com
Lee Alegre	6899 od	610-2879	

Creston Advisory Body Creston Cannabis Update Wednesday August 21, 2024

HEADLINE NEWS...

The two remaining proposed cannabis projects in the greater Creston area are still active. Both are moving through the San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building (Planning Department) review and approval processes. Both are progressing to completing their respective Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) reports as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

DRC2019-00059/Webster Road Associates LLC at 6565 Webster Road

"Accepted for Processing" - 33% complete. \$0 fees due.

Background... This is a 58,000+ square foot indoor cannabis cultivation, manufacturing and transportation/distribution project (Think WalMart sized foot print.) It is proposed to be located 1,200 feet from the Creston K-8 School playing field and 400 feet from the Creston Village line. This project has had no CSS Portal activity since November 2023 and their response to a June 2023 withdrawal notice was not complete with insufficient information/documentation.

Current update... Active and still advancing project. A withdrawal (cancelation) notice was sent to the applicant by the Planning Department requiring action by August 26, 2024. Applicant responded within the week of the notice in person at the Planning Department desk. Applicant stated that they will comply with the original June 2023 notice and the most recent August 2024 notice. Applicant to provide the incomplete and newly requested documentation for the MND report required by CEQA.

Next steps... More insights and estimated time lines after the applicant's updated and complete submission due on August 26, 2024.

DRC2020-00037/SLOCANN, LLC at 10125 Creston Road

"Accepted for Processing" - 33% complete. \$0 fees due.

Background... This project is still active and advancing. It is an outdoor cannabis grow and nursery - for Phase 1 of 3 phases. It is located off of Creston Road across from B&E Vineyards. The Planning Department issued a withdrawal notice in early May 2024 to the applicant. Applicant responded to the satisfaction of the Planning Department.

Current Update... Environmental documentation is in process with 60-75% completed for the MND report. The Planning Department has assigned an outside consultant to work with the applicant on the remaining documentation to complete the MND report.

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This work will be paid by the applicant and the applicant is currently reviewing the scope of work by these consultants with his partners/investors. The applicant needs to approve these costs to continue the project and then the Planning Department can complete and publish the MND report for public comment within 30 days. Then this project moves to a Planning Commission Hearing for review. The Planning Department posted updated documentation on the CSS Portal last week. This included: 1) California Department Fish and Wildlife permit/restrictions in a Streambed Alteration Agreement, 2) Cal Fire's Fire Safety Requirements and 3) 7 drawing sheets proposing the project foot print and elevations.

Next steps... Assuming the applicant agrees to the outside consultant identified by Planning Department, the MND report should be completed and published by December 2024 for public comment. Next step is a Planning Commission Hearing likely in the first half of 2025.

Sources: *Respective Planning Department project lead(s) and the Planning Department's CSS Portal as of August 19, 2024.*