

## MINUTES

### LUCERNE VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (LVEDA)

Monday, November 25, 2024 – 5:00 PM – Moose Lodge

Meeting called to order at 5 PM at Moose Lodge. Flag salute.

Minutes approved. Moved by Walter . Seconded by Jason Hansen

**Treasurer report.** Collection-- \$66. \$20 to Moose. Deposited \$46. Balance \$4505.39

**Sheriff's Report** Sgt. Joe Necochea [jnecochea@sbcasd.org](mailto:jnecochea@sbcasd.org). 47 reports. 19 arrests. Update on victim found in burned house on Rabbit Springs: determined to be homicide. Arrested someone in possession of victim's car, but not sure if this was the perp. Re grant to enforce traffic issues – not available for Lucerne Valley.

**THIRD DISTRICT.** **Steve Reyes** (sent by email). Supervisor Rowe was not on the November Ballot because she won out right in the spring Primary election. She will start a new four-year term in December.

**Measure K- TOT Tax Failed in San Bernardino County.** TOT is the Transient Occupancy Tax paid by tourists who stay at hotels and Air BnBs. The tax goes into the general fund to fund Code Enforcement of short-term rentals, illegal parking enforcement, and other impacts from tourism. It also funds the Community Concern fund, which is used to eradicate illegal marijuana and address other safety issue within our communities. Our TOT will remain 7 percent, while our surrounding city and county's collect 10-12%.

**Measure L – Passed in San Bernardino County.** Requires the Board of Supervisors to include a minimum amount of funding in its annual budget to support County patrol personnel's direct salary and benefit costs for operations in the unincorporated area of the county.

San Bernardino County seeks volunteers for the annual Point in Time Count on Thursday, January 23, 2025. volunteers must be at least 18 years old, have a smartphone or tablet, and provide their transportation. Training sessions will be held virtually, ensuring participants are fully prepared. To register or learn more, visit the San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership website or call 909-501-0617.

The County Assessor-Recorder-Clerk's (ARC) team continues to provide essential services for the Morongo Basin twice a month at the Bob Burke Government Center in Joshua Tree. The ARC Mobile Unit visits proved to be such a success that these services will now be offered inside the building on a permanent basis on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.

**Animal Neutering – FYI – I already forwarded the below information from the Department of Public Health** Regarding the voucher program the below is from the link:

"Our voucher program, the San Bernardino County Animal Sterilization Assistance Program (ASAP), provides residents in our service areas spay and neuter financial support of \$100 for cats and \$200 for dogs."

The County offers free unlimited spay/neuter vouchers for residents in unincorporated areas, including Lucerne Valley, available at the link you previously provided (<https://animalcare.sbcounty.gov/spay-and-neuter-resources/>).

Additionally, in partnership with The PAW Mission, the County also provides monthly free spay/neuter mobile events in unincorporated areas, including the High Desert. Once dates are confirmed, they will be posted online at <https://animalcare.sbcounty.gov/free-spay-neuter-event/>. And, while it is a bit of a drive for Lucerne Valley residents, free spay/neuter services are also available through Priceless Pets at their Chino Hills location; residents can call 909-662-1440 or email [clinic.pricelesspets@gmail.com](mailto:clinic.pricelesspets@gmail.com) for more information if they feel Chino Hills is a viable option for them.

**CHP** 315 tickets, 12 drunk drivers, 73 crashes. Fatal accident last night. 3 trainees due in January, first time in over 2 years. Illegal dumping – please call it in if you see it. Question about the merge from Bear Valley Rd onto Hwy 18, and needs more signage. We have asked for larger Yield signs but Caltrans has denied request.

Chuck will find out what happened before. Please encourage young people age 20-35 to apply to CHP and Sheriffs. Both are hiring like crazy.

**Congressman Jay Obernolte.** Hayden Bartz. Great election. HR 94.95. If you are detained abroad, won't have to pay penalties for late taxes. FAA approved powered lift aircraft, which means more personalized aircraft, alternative aircraft, drones. EPA Zero emissions train rule, and legislation against banning the sale of internal combustion vehicles. Working on spending and national debt.

**Mojave Water Agency.** Presentation from Marina West – our rep. on the Mojave Water Agency/Watermaster Bd.:The proposed site for our State Water groundwater recharge basin along the Morongo Pipeline next to Big Bear's wastewater field was determined by geophysical testing to be in the wrong location and thus scrapped. LVEDA will help MWA find a new one that will best percolate to groundwater.

Watermaster is dealing with those that are pumping well over 10 acre ft./year – those not adjudicated yet - thus need to be brought into the adjudication Judgment. Regarding Watermaster litigation against parties producing more than 10 AF. (which is In Riverside County Superior Court): There are 115 defendants believed to produce more than 10 AF in the adjudicated area. There were about 19 defendants from the Lucerne Valley (Este) Subarea. Only 1 has stipulated Agency-wide. When stipulated – have to obtain water rights from some party in the subarea – or pay for state water recharge into the local basin for each acre foot pumped.

The Watermaster judge has reduced our usable water rights to 50% of what we originally got. Based on the estimated inflow to our groundwater basin ("Physical Safe Yield") – usable rights could go down to @25-30% of original – at 5% reduction/year.

MWA Ordinance 14 requires all new wells drilled since a couple years ago – those pumping less than 10 ac'/year - to pay the annual cost of 1 acre foot of replacement water for local recharge to the basin – now costing around \$600/year. Added to property tax bills. So far – about 130 properties assessed. County EHS is now required to inform drillers and applicants for well permits of the adjudication within its area.

MWA is focusing on outreach and public relations - partnering with multiple entities and organizations.

Rancho Lucerne vs. MWA? Good question. Lots of water rights but might get ramped down to a level that is insufficient for the project. Public relations activities. Essay contest for students Filling the Water Workforce Reservoir. Water Summit --Friday, Feb. 7. Hands-on exhibits. Open to middle and senior high school students. Trying to reach out to Este sub-basin residents and working on some kind of event.

**LVUSD.** Peter Livingston and Chelsea. Jason Hanson. Enrollment steady at 1175. Next board meeting Friday, Dec. 13, 10am at district office. January meeting in Johnson Valley Jan. 9 at 5:30pm. Rancho Lucerne won't be attending any future board meetings. Need to discuss future impact of project on school enrollment. They did confirm that they have "full approval" of their original plan with the County. The full plan will take years to build out assuming it does move forward. Every year district implements \$1000 bonus for veterans on staff.

**County Fire.** North Desert Battalion Chief John Miller: 1055 calls. 71 medical aids. 4 structure fires. 15 unknown fires. 3 vegetation fires. 7 traffic accidents. November 761 calls, 52 medical aids. 3 structures vehicle fires. With cold weather, be careful with space heaters, fire places, keeping combustibles away from them. Toys for Tots – bring new unwrapped gifts to fire department. Q. Who is our contact for meetings and agendas since captain was reassigned elsewhere? Contact secretary Brianna Diaz. We will get a new captain in January.

**LV Museum** by Chelsea LaGrange. Getting one big piece of track for the locomotive, on track for opening January.

**Big Bear Health Van.** Ryan: absent No update on status of grant for other clinics, per Chuck.

**Victor Valley Transit Angie Miller** talked to operations manager. They are willing to restore the western portions of the routes, but not the eastern. They aren't living up to their promise. VV Transit got a grant for transportation to serve low income areas. We need to hold their feet to the fire. Steve Reyes will help with this.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Angie Miller Reported on Halloween activities that were successful.

Business baskets at FFB. Businesses create baskets to raffle and to raise funds

Christmas tree lighting on December 7, 4-6 PM. Activity center at former Burger Depot. LV High School band and choir will perform plus children's choir. 19 vendors. Cheerleaders will perform. Right after the lights in the Cove.

Other stuff: Diaper distribution December 4. Coat drive. Roadrunners will do a toy drive 12/1. Lots of activities that need volunteers. Going to do an advertising mailer. Half business ads, half town goings on. Will be quarterly.

Chuck on Rancho Lucerne. He's after the County for more information.

Sienna Solar. Trying to help with a resident who's surrounded by their project. They seem cooperative. May move some stuff around to help the resident.

247 intersection. Can't get any response from Caltrans. Trying for help from Lackey's office, but they're not having much luck.

Hazardous waste behind fire station Dec. 14.

No meeting in December.

Adjourned 6:30pm.