

AGUA DULCE TOWN COUNCIL

Regular Meeting of Wednesday, April 12, 2023 APPROVED Minutes

In an effort to allow the most inclusive participation, this meeting was held virtually.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81899349388?pwd=SGJxSFpJd0FDOGRHek9yNndubG5nUT09>

Meeting ID: 818 9934 9388 * Passcode: 782040 * Dial in Number: 1 669 900 9128

Council Members Present: President-Don Henry (DH), Secretary-Mary Johnson (MJ), Treasurer-Chris Yewdall (CY), Clerk-Kathryn Segura (KS), Candy Clemente (CC), Cliff Grimes (CG)

Council Members Absent: Scott Keller (SK)

Community Members: About 50 community members in attendance

TOPIC/DISCUSSION	MOTION	RESULT/ DECISION
ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING: Regular Council Operations: 6:30 PM:		
1. Call to order by DH at 6:35 PM		
2. Roll Call: Present: DH, CY, KS, CC, CG, MJ Absent: SK 6 of 7 members in attendance-quorum established		
3. MSP: Move to Approve Agenda as submitted	M: CY S: KS	6-0-0
4. MSP: Move to Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 8, 2023 as submitted	M: KS S: CG	6-0-0
5. Council Reports:		
A. President Report		
i. General: Virtual Meeting Format: Cindy Grimes, volunteer co-host of meeting		
ii. Outgoing Correspondence:		
a. To California State Water Resources Control Board regarding the Petition for Review of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R4-2022-066 for the Agua Dulce Residential Project issued by the LA Regional Water Quality Control Board: SWRCB/OCC Fie A-2799, sent March 17, 2023 (see Item 15.A. for additional details and other responses)		
iii. Incoming Correspondence: See Community Meeting, Item 16.A. B, C., and D.		
iv. Miscellaneous Incoming & Webmail:		
a. From towing company requesting information about towing permits. Referred them to California Highway Patrol and/or California Dept of Transportation.		
B. Secretary Report:		
i. LA County Dept of Economic Opportunity: Grant opportunity for non-profits filed March 17, 2023		
ii. Union Bank Change in Signature card Appt needed for DH, MJ, and CY		
iii. Clerk Duties-Need for revision		
C. Treasurer's Report: (no change from March 2023)		
i. Election Committee Account: \$2,776.17.		
ii. General Account: \$ 14,000.42		
iii. Combined Account Balance: \$16,776.59		
iv. Union Bank merging with US Bank		
D. Association of Rural Town Councils: March 29, 2023: ARTC Election 2023, Title 22 Tune-Up, Cal Fire expansion of Fire Hazard Zones, AV Rural Broadband, AV Garbage Disposal Districts Update, LA County Water Plan and SB-552, Livestock Pass Program, Oak Trees Ordinance		

E. Other: KS: Cost for hauled water is increasing. DH: Cost of doing business in CA is going up and those costs are being passed on to the consumers CY: SB 552 will have significant impacts to private well owners and small water companies		
COMMUNITY MEETING: Reports and Presentations: 7:00 PM:		
6. Call to order by DH at 7:02 PM Pledge of Allegiance and Flag Salute led by CY		
7. President: Virtual Zoom Meeting Format – Introduction of Cindy Grimes-Community Volunteer co-host of meeting. If participants want to record the meeting, press the record icon, request permission in chat to general chat or direct message to co-host Cynthia Grimes.		
8. Agency Reports		
A. Los Angeles County Sheriff Resident Deputy: Deputy Martinez: oamartin@lasd.org Palmdale Sheriff Station: (661) 272-2400. March stats: 2 Part 1 crimes, 1 property crime. 150 calls for service. OHV reminder: legal to ride on your own property or in a designated OHV area (Rohwer Flats).		
B. California Highway Patrol/Cops Team: Officer Delgado: cdelgado@chp.ca.gov Officer Glauser: March stats: 2 arrests: 1 stolen vehicle, 1 DUI. 41 citations. Winter weather conditions keeping CHP busy on the roads.		
C. Los Angeles County Fire Dept/Community Service Rep: Maria Grycan: maria.grycan@fire.lacounty.gov March stats: 40 responses. 2 fires-1 trash, 1 vehicle, 1 service call. 29 EMS, 8 good intent calls. May 1, brush inspections will begin. Zone Haven: CY: Rollout status? Need info from OEM. Agua Dulce zones have been set by MG. MG will send zone areas and names to MJ for distribution to ADTC		
i. Zone 0 Survey: Board of Forestry to have a link to register for email notification related to Zone 0-AB 3074-5 foot ember resistant zone. Currently, not being enforced, education only at this time.		
D. Acton-Agua Dulce Library: Librarian Jim Wall: jwall@library.lacounty.gov Announcement of upcoming programs and activities. For details and to register, go to: https://lacountylibrary.org/acton-agua-dulce-library/ April 22 and 23 will be Friends of Library Book Sale and Craft Fair. "Park and Connect" Wi-Fi has expanded to the parking lot.		
E. Other:		
9. Fifth District Report: Stephanie English: SEnglish@bos.lacounty.gov Dept of Economic Opportunity is conducting listening sessions for establishing permanent outdoor dining program. April 13, 2023 at 9 AM, April 20, 2023 at 3 PM, and May 2, 2023 at 3 PM. Register at https://bit.ly/LACoOutdoorDining BOS approved motion for 500 new beds for mental health inmates in the jail system, referred to as the P3P4 population which is 12% of jail population. CY: Thanks for facilitating to have County staff join the meeting.		
A. Tree, branch, and green waste debris from snowstorms-Public Works facilitating rolloff to be placed at Vasquez Rocks: Josie Gutierrez: April 13-16 and April 20-23. 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM for storm related green waste. If you see bins reach capacity, contact Sally McGaughey at 626-262-2653. MJ: arranged for some volunteers to monitor for compliance.		
B. Report from LA County Staff regarding illegal commercial trucking business at 13025 Sierra Highway in Sleepy Valley: Gary Hirschtick-Branch Director of LA County Public Health: There is no open enforcement case. CY: Is this an open enforcement case with a different dept? Albert Yanagisawa with Fire Prevention Division: Feb 24, 2023, an inspection was conducted. 800 gallon above ground diesel fuel tank was locked and red-tagged. During that inspection the home owner cooperated and allowed county staff to inspect. Follow up on March 10, 2023 by Armine Shamirian of Health Haz Mat. Fire Prevention staff were not allowed on the property. Fuel tank is nearly empty and still locked. April 10, 2023-County Counsel has file for legal action. First will be to file a civil complaint. Next is to file a motion for preliminary injunction against property owners and Trucking Company. The injunction and summary will be a court order enjoining defendants from conducting any unpermitted trucking business and ordering them to abate the building, zoning, and fire code violations. Armine Shamirian-Health Haz Mat: conducted inspection on March 10, 2023. Janet Gomez agreed that Armine could return for periodic inspections. Next schedule inspection is April 14 and will give guidance on getting tank emptied and removed from property. Next steps may be to disconnect electric to pump. DH: Are they aware they are operating an unpermitted commercial business on residential property? AS: Yes, they understand. Amir Bashar and Oscar Gomez of Regional Planning Zoning Enforcement: Received complaint in July of 2022. Difficult time gaining access to property. Once on the property, they noted zoning violations of illegal construction, oak tree encroachment, illegal grading, and unpermitted business. Property owners thought they could apply for permits to get into compliance. AB stated the trucking business would not be allowed. Since then, property owners have		

<p>become uncooperative. Notices and fines continued to mount up. 2 weeks ago, ZE met with DA office and property owners. At that time they promised to apply for permits for the construction, removal of fuel tank, cease trucking operation. Follow up meeting will be in 2 weeks. If no progress has happened, they will take it to the next step with filing the case with the courts. Anthony Thorpe indicated he reported illegal grading via The Works app in the summer of 2021. Complaints filed on The Works app disappear. Appreciates the efforts, but why does enforcement take so long? AB: The process just takes time especially if they are not cooperative. CY: Requests a copy of notice of violations and copy of injunction to the Agua Dulce Town Council. Yosh Morisaku of PW Building & Safety: Joint effort with other County depts. Difficult to gain access. Cited for unpermitted construction and buildings, grading, electrical, plumbing. Working with DA and County Counsel for compliance. Civil complaint will be filed soon. DH: Does the homeowner think he is in compliance as he works with agencies? YM: We prioritize the violations-First is fire safety, next is illegal trucking business, and the rest of the violations follow. MJ: Seems like a great coordinated effort with all the different departments. SE: Frustrated with timeline constraints. County staff needs to be prepared to report back regularly with updates.</p>		
<p>C. Report from LA County Staff regarding Sleepy Valley Water Company and failed adjacent septic system: Gary Hirschtick-Branch Director of LA County Public Health: There is an open enforcement case for failing septic system. Received complaint on possible failing septic system near the Sleepy Valley Water Company well location and was contributing to the elevated nitrate levels. PH could not gain access to property to investigate. PH sent notification to home owner directing home owner to investigate the septic system and report back findings to PH. Notice was undeliverable. An alternate mailing address was located and sent another notification. Communication started by email and phone. 2 separate septic evaluations were conducted. Both indicated parts of the system had failed due to deterioration. At this point, the homeowner has not taken steps to correct the system and PH has submitted the case to the District Attorney for further investigation and possible criminal prosecution. CY: is there any way to assist with enforcement or access for pumping septic to maintain a healthy water supply and to mitigate the problem. GH: Working with DA to bring property into compliance. Anthony Thorpe: frustrated with how long this has been going on. Inaction is unacceptable. SE: We are currently at enforcement level with the DA office.</p>		
<p>D. Current ongoing issues: Regional Planning-Residential Design Standards Ordinance, Wildfire Protection Ordinance, Water Conservation Ordinance. Public Works-GDDs. LA County response to SB 552.</p>		
<p>E. Garbage Disposal District: Josie Gutierrez of Public Works: Reviewing comments from scoping. Hope to release DEIR Summer of 2023. Once released, PW will reach out to Councils to present to community.</p>		
<p>10. CA 34th Assembly District: Assemblymember Tom Lackey: Carlo Basail: carlo.basail@asm.ca.gov 661-267-7636: Absent</p>		
<p>11. CA 21st Senate District: Senator Scott Wilk: Brandon Roque: Brandon.Roque@sen.ca.gov Absent</p>		
<p>SB 552: Drought Planning for Small Water Suppliers and Rural Communities: How does this affect private domestic well owners?</p>		
<p>12. US 27th Congressional District: Mike Garcia: Jackie Owens: Jacqueline.owens@mail.house.gov Absent</p>		
<p>13. Santa Clara River Watershed Area Steering Committee: Measure W: Watershed Coordinator Peter Massey petermassey@treepeople.org Absent</p>		
<p>A. Next Santa Clara River Watershed Steering Committee meeting: May 18, 2023, 1PM to 3 PM, Santa Clarita City Hall, 23920 Valencia Blvd</p>		
<p>B. Water Talks Education Series: Upper Santa Clara River</p>		
<p>i. Canyon Country Community Center stormwater infiltration system, April 19, 2023 10 AM to 12 PM, 18410 Sierra Highway, Santa Clarita</p>		
<p>ii. Rio Vista Water Treatment Plant to see how imported water from State Water Project aqueduct is treated and managed, May 13, 2023, 10 AM to 11:30 AM, 27234 Bouquet Canyon Rd, Santa Clarita (Central Park)</p>		
<p>iii. Flooding issues in Acton analysis presentation at upcoming Acton Town Council meeting</p>		
<p>14. Presentations/Discussions:</p>		
<p>A. Community Wildfire Protection Ordinance being developed to reduce and manage wildfire and disaster risks to people and property in VHFHSZ and Hillside Management Areas. Cameron Robertson of Dept of Regional Planning. See Agenda Item 16.C.i. Regional Planning Commission Public Hearing June 14, 2023</p>		

<p>Applies to new development in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones with single means of access and Hillside Management Areas with 50% slope or steeper. For details on the presentation, see the attachment Community Wildfire Protection Ordinance April 2023 Regional Planning Power Point. Project contact: safety@planning.lacounty.gov Project website: https://planning.lacounty.gov/site/climate/cwp Draft Ordinance: https://planning.lacounty.gov/site/climate/cwpo-documents CY: if an approved project yet unrecorded project that has expired, would this new ordinance apply? CR: If entitlements lapse, yes, the project would need to comply with the new ordinance. MJ: Any new requirements for SFR? CR: Only in Hillside Management Areas on 50% slope or greater would require a CUP. Other development in HMA will have additional standards for wildfire standards-site planning, road circulation, building design, and landscaping.</p>		
<p>15. Old Business:</p>		
<p>A. RTG Investments, Agua Dulce Residential Project – TT50385: Chris Yewdall (see attachment with Power Point)</p>		
<p>i. Letter sent to State Water Resources Control Board regarding the grievances filed with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board and submitting ADTC comments.</p>		
<p>a. Letter sent by RTG</p>		
<p>b. Letter sent by Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board</p>		
<p>ii. Letter to Supervisor Barger in response to her letter of October 12, 2022 in light of the Public Records Requests highlighting our concerns of the lack of supporting evidence regarding the bonds in place.</p>		
<p>iii. Email sent by CY to Bond company to determine the existence and validity of bonds. CY will continue dialogue with Traveler’s Insurance to clarify bond status.</p>		
<p>iv. Determination on next steps and actions required. MSP: Move to send 2 letters to Supervisor Barger. 1) Construction outside of recorded and unrecorded maps approved in 1994 and 2007, 2) Seeking confirmation, clarification and validity of bonds related Agua Dulce Residential Project 50385.</p>	<p>M: MJ S: CC</p>	<p>6-0-0</p>
<p>v. Information from Community Group Save Rural Agua Dulce: adneighbors2021@gmail.com Cindy Grimes: Thanks to CY. Want to hear from SE on where Supervisor Barger stands. SE: This has many layers of technical issues. It takes time for County staff to investigate. SE is relaying the Council and community concerns to Supervisor Barger. She relies on staff input and they will keep working to resolve and answer our questions. SE needs to rely on the technical experts but assures that she is listening.</p>		
<p>16. President’s Report</p>		
<p>A. General:</p>		
<p>i. 2023 ADTC Meeting Format: In an effort to be most inclusive with meeting participation, the Council will continue with virtual meetings and have an in-person meeting once every quarter. Those in-person meetings will be March, June, September, and December and the location will be the Agua Dulce Women’s Club, 33201 Agua Dulce Canyon Road, Agua Dulce. Based on public participation at in-person meetings, we may revisit and amend this schedule and format.</p>		
<p>ii. Public Works Road Maintenance:</p>		
<p>a. Sierra Highway (Davenport to Center St) 4/10/23-4/18/23</p>		
<p>b. Agua Dulce Canyon Rd (Escondido Canyon Rd to Castlehaven) Summer 2023</p>		
<p>c. Agua Dulce Canyon Rd (Soledad Canyon Rd to Burke Rd) Summer 2023</p>		
<p>d. Escondido Canyon Rd (SR-14 to Syracuse Ave) Summer 2023</p>		
<p>e. Sierra Highway (Center St to Agua Dulce Canyon Rd) Fall 2023</p>		
<p>iii. SB 552 Drought Planning for Small Water Suppliers and Rural Communities This applies to individual private wells</p>		
<p>B. Incoming Correspondence for Action:</p>		
<p>i. LA County Revised Draft 2045 Climate Action Plan (CAP) and Recirculated DEIR is available for public review. The CAP is LA County’s path toward achieving carbon neutrality for the unincorporated areas. Comments must be</p>		

<p>submitted by May 15, 2023 by 5 PM. Send comments by USPS to LA County, Dept of Regional Planning, Attn, Thuy Hua, 320 W. Temple St, 13th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012 or by email to climate@planning.lacounty.gov For details and documents, go to https://planning.lacounty.gov/site/climate/los-angeles-county-cap/ Please note there are 2 separate documents: 1) Recirculated DEIR of 2045 Climate Action Plan, and 2) Revised Draft 2045 Climate Action Plan. Separate comment letters are requested. MJ suggests we submit comments for review for the May meeting.</p>		
<p>C. Public Hearing/Community Meetings:</p>		
<p>i. Community Wildfire Protection Ordinance-Regional Planning Commission Public Hearing: Continued to June 14, 2023, 9:00 AM, 320 West Temple Street, Room 150, Los Angeles, CA 90012 and Online. Visit http://planning.lacounty.gov/rpc and select hearing date for more information. Project No. PRJ2020-002395 / Advance Planning Project No. RPPL202007456. Project Description: Amendments to Title 21 and Title 22 of Los Angeles County Code to strengthen standards for development located within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) and Hillside Management Areas to reduce risks to life and property from wildfires. Case materials can be viewed at https://planning.lacounty.gov/site/climate/cwpo-documents/ Submit comments via email at safety@planning.lacounty.gov MJ: Based on presentation tonight, I don't see the need to submit comments</p>		
<p>D. Incoming Correspondence for Notice:</p>		
<p>i. Letters to individual Council members from Assemblyman Lackey for meeting to find ways to work together. SB 552 needs to be discussed.</p>		
<p>ii. Regional Planning Plans Filed: DH: What is the purpose of Regional Planning requiring approval of any water well permits (new wells, well tests, deepening wells) before getting approval from Public Health??? SE will look into it.</p>		
<p>a. APN: 3213019019, referral for new water well on vacant land</p>		
<p>b. APN: 3213009001, proposing new SFR and ADU</p>		
<p>c. 33310 Agua Dulce Canyon Rd, referral to ABC license</p>		
<p>d. 9805 Sweetwater Dr, yard modification for retroactive approval of detached accessory buildings</p>		
<p>e. 9805 Sweetwater Dr, approval for existing pool house and convert unpermitted structure to ADU</p>		
<p>f. 8128 Carrie Ct, amendment to RPP:2019007489 and time extension</p>		
<p>g. 34711 Caprock Rd, convert exiting garage into a multi-purpose room and personal office</p>		
<p>h. 33314 Agua Dulce Canyon Rd, business license referral</p>		
<p>i. 8800 Soledad Canyon Rd, Public Works at Fire Camp 11, well permit</p>		
<p>j. 35055 Caprock Rd, new swimming pool/spa/cabana/patio cover and storage</p>		
<p>17. Open Forum: None</p>		
<p>18. High Speed Rail Update: Pam Wolter: Absent</p>		
<p>19. New Business:</p>		
<p>20. Committee Reports:</p>		
<p>A. Election Committee: Chair: Rosie Heffley: Looking for volunteers to join committee. Country Fair and Parade will be September 16, 2023.</p>		
<p>B. Film: Candy Clemente: 10 shoots</p>		
<p>C. Parks and Trails: Mary Johnson: Nothing to report</p>		
<p>D. Water Stewardship: Don Henry: Expect in 8 to 10 weeks well capacity should increase</p>		
<p>E. Ways & Means: Scott Keller: Absent</p>		
<p>F. Disaster Planning: Gary Hebdon/Chris Yewdall: 6 New HAM radio general licenses. 100% pass rate. Update on CERT supplies and classes: MJ and CY met with AV CERT area commander and Acton CERT captain. Discussing moving the Agua Dulce 20' CERT container with supplies to Agua Dulce Women's Club. Once approval has been granted from AD Women's</p>		

Club, we will work on relocating the supplies.		
G. Other:		
21. Announcements		
A. FREE Household Hazardous Waste and E-Waste Collection: First & Third Saturday of each month, 9 AM to 3 PM, 1200 West City Ranch Rd, Palmdale, Environmental Collection Center		
B. Animal Care & Control: April Kitty Palooza adoption promotion: Adoption fees will be reduced to \$10 for all cats. (Fee includes adoption, microchip, vaccinations, and spay/neuter if needed)		
C. Agua Dulce Women's Club Grand Re-Opening and Ribbon Cutting and Open House: April 22, 2023, 11 AM to 2 PM, 33201 Agua Dulce Canyon Road		
D. FREE Household Hazardous Waste and E-Waste Collection April 15, 2023, 9 AM to 3 PM, College of the Canyons, South Parking Lot, 26455 Rockwell Canyon Rd, Santa Clarita		
E. FREE Tire Collection Event, April 22, 2023 9 AM to 2 PM, PW Yard, 38126 N Sierra Highway, Palmdale; PW Yard, 8505 E Avenue T, Littlerock; PW Yard, 4859 W Avenue L-12, Quartz Hill		
F. FREE Mattress Recycling: 9 AM to 2 PM: April 29, 2023, PW Yard #558, 8505 East Ave T, Littlerock; May 6, 2023, PW Yard # 555, 17341 East Ave J, Lancaster; June 10, 2023, PW Yard #557, 38126 Sierra Highway, Palmdale; June 17, 2023, PW Yard #551, 4859 West Ave L 12, Quartz Hill		
G. Association of Rural Town Council: April 26, 2023, 7:00 PM-via Zoom		
H. Next regular ADTC meeting: May 10, 2023 Format Virtual via Zoom. Links will be posted on the ADTC website: www.adtowncouncil.com		
I. Santa Clara River Watershed Area Steering Committee: May 18, 2023, 1 PM to 3 PM, Santa Clarita City Hall, 23920 Valencia Blvd. Links and details can be found on agenda at https://safecleanwaterla.org/santa-clara-river-watershed-area/ under "Meetings and Events."		
22. Future Agenda Items:		
May: Regional Planning: Residential Design Standards Ordinance?		
June: In person: recognition certificates to be distributed to outgoing Council members: Lou Vince, Ed Porter, Troy Fosberg		
Future: Public Works: Update on North County Solid Waste Collection Services Project-GDD, SB 552		
23. MSP: Move to Adjourn at 9:24 PM	M: KS S: CY	6-0-0

Respectfully Submitted: Mary Johnson, 2023 ADTC Secretary

APPROVED: May 10, 2022

Attachments: Community Wildfire Protection Ordinance April 2023 Regional Planning Power Point
4-12-23 Agua Dulce Residential Project Power Point