



P.O. Box 3694, Landers, CA 92285 www.hvccsite.org

Agenda for the April 18th, 2010 Homestead Valley Community Council Meeting
3:00 P.M. at Johnson Valley Community Center, 50567 Quailbush Road

Flag Salute

Roll Call / Delegate List

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

Treasurer's Report

1. Guest Comments
2. SB County Code Enforcement – Mike Romage
3. SB County Fire Dept – Dave Benfield
4. Committee Reports:
 - Fund Raising / Events (Earlene McCloskey)
 - Advisory (Nancy Sammons)
 - Public Outreach (Betty Munson)
 - Community Services / Improvements / Cooperation (Rick Sayers)
 - Scenic Hwy 247 (Barbara Harris)
5. HVCC officers nominating committee
6. Homestead Valley community maps
7. Marine base expansion
8. New transmission line
9. High Desert Corridor
10. Renewable energy on public lands position letter
11. SB County Third District – Alan Rasmussen
12. President's Report
13. Action Items and Community Reports list
14. Adjourn – next meeting May 16th in Flamingo Heights 3:00 P.M.

HVCC Delegates/Committee list

04/18/2011

Adrienne BISHOP Landers.364-2345 . . .
David Cooper.YMIA. 809-2590. . . david.cooper@us.bureauveritas.com
Dale FREDENBURG...FHCA. 364-3788. . . Shellrswift@hotmail.com
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Betty MUNSON JVIA 364-2646 . . ranchotaj@gmail.com
Tory PRESTON FHCA.364-3373 . . torypreston2@gmail.com
Nancy SAMMONS . . . YMIA365-8507 . . Namsam@mojavewifi.com
Rick SAYERSYMIA574-6598 . . rick@ricksayers.com
Joyce WHEELER JVIA364-3392 . . shipitshop@peoplepc.com
Linda WILLGUES Landers364-9203 . . linda-1954@live.com
Alan RASMUSSEN228-5400 arasmussen@sbccounty.gov

Ad Hoc Committees

Nominating: April to present officers slate at May meeting for June meeting election

Audit: June to submit the audit results by September meeting

Scenic 247 Committee: Chairperson Barbara Harris

Standing Committees

Fund Raising / Events: Chairperson Earlene McCloskey
Nancy Sammons,

Advisory: Chairperson Nancy Sammons,
Presidents of the 4 HVCC community organizations:
Lee Gardner (Landers)
Dave Cooper (YMIA)
Betty Munson (JVIA)
Tory Preston (FHCA)
Alan Rasmussen, Third District Field Representative

Community Outreach: Chairperson Betty Munson
Jim Hanley, Rick Sayers, Linda Willgues

Community Services / Improvements / Cooperation: Chairperson Rick Sayers
Jim Hanley, Betty Munson, Joyce Wheeler

**HOMESTEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING
IN YUCCA MESA, TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2011**

Opened with Flag Salute at 3.05 pm

Present: 100% Adrienne Bishop, David Cooper, Dale Fredenburg, Jim Hanley, Jim Harvey, Ken Jones, Earlene McCloskey, Betty Munson, Tory Preston, Nancy Sammons, Rick Sayers, Joyce Wheeler, Linda Willgues, Alan Rasmussen David Cooper for YMIA replacing Carl Schmitt. Dale Fredenburg for FHCA replacing Maryan Barkley.

Guests: Sgt. Nicole Olson, Sgt. Francisco Rodriguez, USMC; Mark Dvorak, Kathleen Bingham, Rex Richardson, Solid Waste Management; Dave Benfield, Fire Dept; Olivia de Huelleville, Ed Cronin, YMIA; Eugene Buchanan, Andy Canada, Steve Smith, Gridnot; Nalleli Zuber, Flamingo Heights; Seth Shteir, NPCA; Shelly Fredenburg, Lary Callander, Margo Sturges.

Delegate list approved

Agenda approved unanimously

Minutes of February meeting, posted to www.hvccsite.org in draft form, approved unanimously.

Treasurer's report: Bank balance 7,681.79 ending balance 7,382. 79,

1. Guest Comments:

-Alan Rasmussen introduced two members of VMU-1, Sgt. Nikki Olson, Sgt, Francisco Rodriguez, in the group who received our care packages last year in Afghanistan. They fly the unmanned reconnaissance aircraft for real time video to troops on the ground. They thanked us for our support, and we thanked them for their service. The mail arrived in about a week and a half. VMU-3 will be leaving in one month; Olson and Rodriguez will help with packing gifts.

-Eugene Buchanan, Gridnot wind turbine company has applied for development code amendment which will take three months, wants to speed up this process. Cost now for variance in existing code is \$4200 each installation. HVCC to write letter to show community support, first consult with Alan. Also would property be assessed for leased equipment. Solar does not increase assessment.

-Ed Cronin. Fundraiser selling candy bars to send 2 special needs kids to science camp in Catalina. Announce Yucca Mesa Improvement Association 50th Anniversary is Sept 17.

-Margo Sturges-Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting. Septic tank prohibition in Yucca Valley to pass in May in Phase 1 in Yucca Valley. Wastewater management to be paid for by assessment and 1% increase in sales tax. All connection costs are on homeowner.

5. (moved up) SB County Solid Waste Management Mark Dvorak, Operations Supervisor, San Bernardino County Public Works; Kathleen Bingham, Solid Waste Programs Administrator; and Rex Richardson, Solid Waste Management. Illegal dumping discussed: fees collected at landfill support community cleanup efforts such as Friends of Giant Rock, supports HHW collection by Fire dept., and Code Enforcement in having staff review sites to look for evidence and advise us of location, and they pick up if it's within 1/4 mile of landfill by state regulation. Discussed difficulty and extra charges at landfill, segregation of recyclables by the hauler, nails in tires. Recycling program has been implemented. Some people sort their load before going to landfill. Fees for recycle, tires, Accepting electronic waste now. Discussion of volunteers picking up illegal trash having to pay or get cited for even handling some materials. Limits to what citizens can haul in tires and hazardous waste established by state Environmental Health Services. Landers landfill does use magnets. Kiosk and scale operator are county employees, workers at landfill are Burrtec employees. Code Enforcement has three people on staff, no funding for tipping fees. CE now requiring people cited have receipts from landfill. Environmental mitigation fund available to communities to work with to help with illegal dumping. Solid Waste is office that negotiates contracts with Burrtec. We-Tip program rewards those who report illegal dumping.

Landfill open M-S 8:00-4:00. Disposal permits are for the owner and occupant of the residence; call Mike Dvorak to haul in trash for a neighbor that can't bring it in themselves.

Trash cans are topheavy, blow over easily. Kathleen will do research.

Lack of uniformity of services and rates among the Homestead Valley communities: where the areas are, large items pickup not available in some. Educational enclosure in bill as to services and restrictions has been suggested.

Bring sofas, green waste up to 500 lbs per trip no charge, if you have permit card. Carpeting cut into small strips, if it would fit into garbage cans, will be accepted. Every 3rd Saturday Fire Dept operates HHW site in Joshua Tree, next to Gary's Tire.

Trash disposal fee available on website, may link to HVCC website.

We-Tip 800-782-7463 crime report, illegal dumping. 800-722-8004 recorded information from Solid Waste.

4. (moved up) SB County Fire Dept - Dave Benfield - Household Hazardous Waste information available on the Fire Dept website. www.sbc.org

Refresher training starting for wildfire season. Three retirements in this area, including Division Chief Gary Benedict.

Emergency preparedness a hot topic, have water and food stockpiled. County Office of Emergency Services can help in emergency like long powerouts. Burn permits available for weeds, follow guidelines.

2. Seth Shteir, National Parks Conservation Association House of Representatives – Concurrent Resolution commemorating the 75th anniversary of Joshua Tree National Park. Send a letter to Jerry Lewis and Mary Bono Mack.

3. SB County Code Enforcement - Mike Romage - unable to attend

4. Committee Reports

- **Fund raising / Events:** Poker Run. Pony Express will be at YMIA to sell stamps and collect mail. Tickets will be done next week.

- **Advisory Committee:** No meeting.

- **Community Outreach-** notices to radio, E-mail notifications of this meeting.

- **Community Services /Improvements /Cooperation**

- Marine Base Expansion-Betty made copies of Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Information coming in about the noise impact, including air traffic. Strategic planners in Washington DC are actually talking about reducing the size of the land army capabilities of the USMC. Marines want simultaneous land-air training. Final vote will be in Congress. Question of necessity of this expansion. Planners are in the Beltway.

- Scenic 247 Committee- www.scenichighway247.com is the domain name, list of target organizations. Chambers and historical societies. Mission statement being drafted.

7. HVCC position paper on large scale renewables in open spaces. Jim to summarize our position for the last 2 years.

Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association also submitting paper. Discussed centralized power generation vulnerable to terrorist attack. Possible special meeting on SCE smart meters.

8. Alan Rasmussen Third District update Supervisors to adjourn in memory of Phyllis Burns tomorrow.

Well in Johnson Valley. Quotes to go out this week, 2 weeks to come back.

No update on hauled water.

County Regional Park. First District wanted to do an OHV park, one near the base, one near Indian Cove. By the end of the year that will be in 3rd District.

CDBG money would not be available until July.

9. President's Report-Linda, Betty, Earlene, Dave and Jim attended non-profit seminar. Betty will send out the e-mail paper with live links to government papers on sales tax, raffles etc. HVCC and communities in compliance with state and federal filings.

10. Action Items and Community Reports List - renewables, paper, letters of appreciation to Maryan and Carl, firm information on trash. VMU-1 . Jim to followup on windmill variance.

11. Adjourn 6:00 - Next meeting in JOHNSON VALLEY , Monday, APRIL 18, at 3:00 pm

Betty Munson 760-364-2646

HOMESTEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET
MARCH 31, 2011

ASSETS

CASH AND BANK ACCOUNTS

HVCC US BANK CHECKING	\$ 3,243.18
HVCC US BANK MONEY MARKET	\$ 4,137.57
TOTAL CASH AND BANK ACCOUNT	\$ 7,380.75

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

LIABILITIES	MARINE FUND	\$ 746.06
EQUITY		\$ 6,634.69
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		\$ 7,380.75

HOMESTEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
TREASURERS REPORT
MARCH 31, 2011

BEGINNING BALANCE		\$ 7,380.72
INCOME		
	INTEREST INCOME	\$.03
TOTAL INCOME		\$.03
SUB TOTAL		\$ 7,380.75
EXPENSES		
	DONATIONS TO SCHOOLS	\$ 180.00
TOTAL EXPENSE		\$ 180.00
SUB TOTAL		\$ 7,200.75
OUT STANDING CHECKS		\$ 180.00
TOTAL BALANCE		\$ 7,380.75

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

EARLENE MC CLOSKEY
March 17, 2011

**29 Palms Marine Base Expansion
Open House Public Meeting.
Hilton Garden Inn Conference Center in Victorville, Thursday, April 14**

The large conference room was set up as it was for the original scoping meeting. Displays against three walls were manned by Marine spokespeople ready to answer questions about the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. This time however, issues covered in the DEIS each had a station, in addition to stations for the various expansion “alternatives.”

As you entered you came to an area set up to explain the procedures for studies under National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). Then an area for the Marines to explain the purpose and need for the proposed expansion. As you worked your way around the room, all the expansion alternatives were explained, complete with maps. The map for the Marine preferred Alternative 6 even had roads and Hwy 247 on it. Recreation and safety, air quality, biological concerns, noise and property issues filled the third wall, and there was a BLM table addressing the “segregation” of public lands for the studies.

In the center of the room were tables to write your comments or dictate them to a stenographer.

When we asked various experts to answer if they thought the expansion was absolutely necessary, the one best reason we heard was from a jet pilot dropping bombs onto the Base. His speed is such that his time to aim and acquire the target is quite short; more territory to fly over would help make it easier. For the rest, “the Marines must train as they fight” slogan sounds all very well, but the burden of proof is still on them. In my opinion they do very well with the training they have. “Their neighbors must suffer as they train” we can prove.

The room was crowded the whole evening, and though everyone was talking at once, it was not loud. I am not aware that anyone from Johnson Valley was there besides Court Prittie and me. Twice when I told a spokesperson that we live in Johnson Valley the response was, “You DO?”

People were there from the Lucerne Valley Market and Hardware, and they turned in a report of their sales, demonstrating the importance to business of the big OHV weekends in Johnson Valley. The editor of the Lucerne Valley Leader was interviewing Marines and attendees. LVEDA was also represented.

Many representatives of the OHV community were in lively discussions. King of the Hammers promoters and racers made their comments. The Partnership for Johnson Valley was represented. The film industry was represented.

Others I did not recognize were no doubt regular residents like us, coming to point out some of the deficiencies in the Draft EIS.

Such as:

- It ignores the **historic significance** of our homestead communities. The Cultural Resource expert for the Base told Carl Ripaldi she did not know where Johnson Valley is, and questioned that the Small Homestead Act was historic. (The BLM considers anything historic that is 50 years old.)
- The Draft EIS did not address the effects of **high winds** on the training maneuvers.
- The Draft EIS says the base expansion will have no **visual impact** on its neighbors. We have plenty of

visual impact lately from the existing Base, and have no reason to think they will change their ways.

- The Draft EIS averages **noise** over 24 hours, implying the noise produced will be insignificant, whereas we experience each individual impact and helicopter passage as a disturbing break in the normal desert quiet. Court invited the man with the sound measuring equipment to our front yard during the finale of the next big exercise.
- It did not address **vibration**, which is in a large measure what we experience with their explosions.

On things the Draft EIS did address they often said **no mitigation** was feasible, but does not say what mitigation was discussed.

For instance in their handout brochure, the Marines encourage you to take soundproofing measures in your home; evidently at your own expense, and evidently never considering we ever go outside.

When asked **what time of year** they plan to do their exercises (2 per year for 24 days each) the answer was they did not know, but probably Spring and Fall. Of course this is also the time of maximum recreational use. Not knowing before completing the Environmental Impact Statement makes conclusions as to the effects on recreational activity meaningless. Cold Winter and hot Summer exist in Afghanistan, too. We fully understand any reluctance to train during those times, but we the public are also unwilling to venture out into our public lands in freezing cold and burning heat.

Helen Baker of the Partnership for Johnson Valley is planning a session to train people how to fill out their comment forms to talk about the defects in the Draft EIS. It will be on Thursday, May 2, during the day, in Lucerne Valley. The venue is not set yet, Cafe 247 was under discussion.

You must get your comment in before May 26, 2011, for it to be considered in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

It is possible there will be another smaller meeting on the Draft EIS in Lucerne Valley or Johnson Valley so the people most affected by a possible westward expansion of the Base won't have to make an 100-mile round trip to talk to the Marines.

The comment form can be downloaded from www.hvcc.org

–Betty Munson

-Thanks to Carl Ripaldi, Environmental Specialist for Metro for his study of the draft EIS.

-Thanks to Harry and Helen Baker and Steve Gardiner of the Partnership for Johnson Valley for their expertise in land use matters, and their unflagging campaign to save Johnson Valley from the Base expansion.

-Thanks to the Marines for their sincere efforts to train the troops as well and safely as possible, whether in Johnson Valley or not.



Centennial West Clean Line <http://www.centennialwestcleanline.com/site/home>

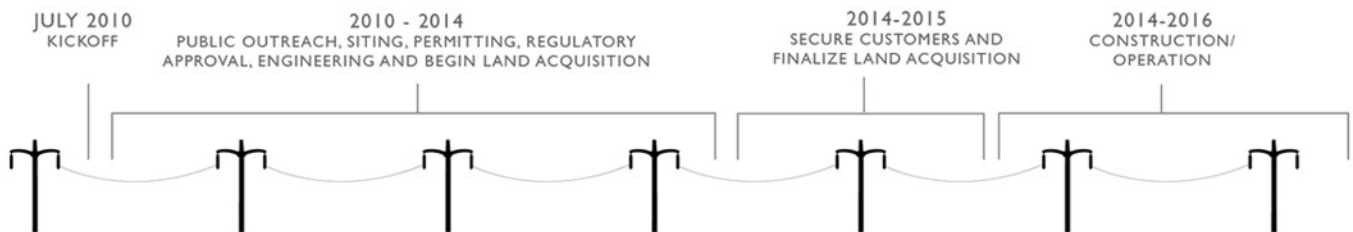
Renewable energy provides Americans with jobs, clean air, and energy security. However, the continued growth of this burgeoning industry depends upon the expansion of the U.S. electric transmission grid. Americans increasingly recognize the benefits of using renewable energy and are now demanding that we capitalize on the opportunities made possible by a clean energy economy. While the United States has some of the best renewable resources in the world, they are predominantly located in remote areas. The challenge lies in transporting the energy generated from these resources to communities that need the power—a challenge Clean Line Energy is working to solve.

Delivering clean energy to millions of homes

An effective transmission solution requires the appropriate technology and the right project. The Centennial West Clean Line will deliver 3,500 megawatts of the best renewable energy from northeastern New Mexico to communities in California and other areas in the west that have a strong demand for clean, reliable energy. The clean energy will be transported via an approximately 900-mile overhead, high-voltage direct current transmission (HVDC) line. Due to its low electricity losses and smaller footprint, HVDC transmission is the most efficient and cost effective technology to move large amounts of electricity over long distances.



CENTENNIAL WEST CLEAN LINE SCHEDULE



**High Desert Corridor (HDC)
Open House Public Meeting.
Apple Valley Council Chambers**

The High Desert Corridor is a proposed link between State Route 14 (the Antelope Valley freeway) in Los Angeles County and SR-18 on the east side of Apple Valley. It would be approximately 63 miles of freeway/expressway expected to ease congestion on east-west corridors down below, such as the I-210, the I-10, SR-60 and truck traffic on SR-138. The right-of-way would be 300-500 feet wide. The picture on the brochure shows it as 6 lanes wide!

Caltrans and the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro) anticipate fast residential, commercial and industrial growth in Palmdale, Lancaster, Adelanto, Victorville and Apple Valley, and so they initiated the HDC Environmental Impact Statement/Report (EIS/EIR) in September 2010.

Metro, the Joint Powers authority (Metro-Caltrans), Apple Valley Town Council members and a representative from Brad Mitzelfelt's office were at the meeting, as well as a full house of Apple Valley residents.

We were told the study of the HDC alternatives has received full funding from federal and bond sources. Metro is involved because three alternatives include additional right-of-way for high speed rail. **No construction is funded yet.**

The map of the project shows two alternatives with several variations. Basically the choice is between **Alternative 1.** east from the I-14 in Palmdale headed directly to Adelanto, Oro Grande, Victorville and across the I-15 into northern Apple Valley, from there south to the 18, or **Alternative 2.** east from the I-14 in Palmdale then veering south after a few miles and following the existing 138-18 (Pearblossom Hwy) route to the I-15.

The speakers from the audience were all residents of Apple Valley. Their comments and question related to all the stated goals of the HDC:

1. Address significant regional growth:

One question was why now? citing empty housing, abandoned construction, lack of jobs. The answer: we must plan for the future, all earlier growth projections fell short of the actual increase in population. They did mention recent economic condition had slowed growth, but that the HDC itself is expected to encourage growth all along its length.

2. Increase east-west roadway capacity:

The speakers from the audience did not seem to grasp that the whole point is to get heavy cargo traffic out of the LA basin and divert it into the desert. One question was, why this route, I never drive to Lancaster. Another was why can't you run Metro through the Cajon Pass? No one pointed out that increased capacity and development around freeways creates its own congestion in a very short time.

3. Enhanced safety:

This refers to the Pearblossom Highway SH-138, notorious for decades for its death toll. One speaker called it "Blood Alley."

- Alternative 1 is expected to re-route truck traffic, making it safer.

-Alternative 2 would make 138-18 into a freeway/expressway, and definitely make it safer.

(Metro's website says money has already been funded to add new lanes on 138-18 to the SB county line, so the kill rate under Alternative 1 may be reduced to the levels of 1960-1970.)

4. Improved connections between regional imports and efficient movement of goods.

Old March Air Base is already turning into an intermodal freight hub. Air, rail and truck cargo can be transhipped. Container cargo can move by rail through the Alameda Corridor from Long Beach, up to the high desert, relieving some LA freeways of trucks. From there it can go in all directions across the country, Traffic can make its way from the I-5 all the way across to the I-15, etc etc. Wal-Mart has already built a huge shipping complex to the north of Apple Valley which could take advantage of easy transshipping of imports.

But the result is the usual: dump the problems of the megalopolis into the desert.

Many questions about routes, right-of-way, possible toll operation, “green” energy corridor status and other concerns were answered with, we don’t know yet. Observers hope they will be addressed before the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report is published.

What was never mentioned is the effect of all this increased traffic being funneled down into the two-lane SH-18 near Dead Man’s Point to Lucerne Valley and the SH-247, and to Yucca Valley and the SH-62 connections to 29 Palms and the Palm Springs area.

“Short cut” traffic and weigh-scale dodgers already use these narrow highways, sharing them with Wal-Mart and cement trucks.

No study is being made of the impact of this increased traffic on these roads and our communities, and certainly no plans were mentioned at all of any widening or other improvements of these roads. At a guess, not many of us would like to see 247 turn into a 4- or 6- lane highway cutting through our rural landscape.

The website we are referred to www.metro.net/HDC did not work at this time.

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist07/travel/projects/138hdc/> does work and has finally been updated to show the meetings that were just held this week. **The map attached comes from that site, but additional variations were made on the map at the meeting.**

Comment may be e-mailed to hdc@metro.net. Be sure to include all your contact information in your message so you can be informed of meetings and other milestones.

Or mail a comment to
Mr. Robert Machuca
Project Manager, Metro
One Gateway Plaza, 99-22-9
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Timeline for the Environmental Impact Studies/Reports:

Fall of 2012 - Release of the Draft EIS/EIR

Winter 2012 - Public hearing

Spring 2013 - Final EIS/EIR

–Betty Munson

HOMESTEAD VALLEY
COMMUNITY COUNCIL



"One voice for the people of Homestead Valley"

P. O. Box 3694 Landers, CA 92285 www.hvccsite.org

March 14, 2011

Dear _____:

Homestead Valley is located in the Third District of San Bernardino County in the high desert of southern California. The four Homestead Valley communities of Flamingo Heights, Johnson Valley, Landers, and Yucca Mesa formed the Homestead Valley Community Council (HVCC) in 1997 to address matters of mutual interest with local, state, and federal lawmakers.

HVCC is extremely alarmed by the number of solar, wind, and transmission line project/upgrades currently proposed for installation on publicly owned lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Even if only a modest fraction of these projects is approved and built, we believe they will have an immediate, irreversible, devastating impact on our communities and other desert communities in the western states.

There is a long held misconception that the western deserts are little more than vast swaths of sun-baked, lifeless, worthless landscape. Those of us who admire desert ecosystems like the Mojave, who have chosen to live here and experience daily all the diversity and beauty it has to offer know first hand this misconception could not be further from the truth.

The desert flora consists of an unimaginable number of plant species, including Creosote rings dated at thousands of years old, still living and playing an important role to the survival of animal species like the Kangaroo Rat, San Joaquin Kit Fox, and the Desert Tortoise. Eagles, hawks, owls, and raptors fly our desert skies, as they have been for thousands of years. From the flowering yuccas of New Mexico, to the Saguaro cacti of Arizona, to the Joshua Trees of California and Nevada, there should be no doubt our desert open spaces are teeming with life.

Centralized renewable energy projects require massive amounts of land to accommodate them. Nothing proves this better than the proposed 400 MW Ivanpah Solar project, which will permanently destroy approximately **4,000 undisturbed acres** of Mojave desert. This is only one project! HVCC finds this unacceptable.