



MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER @ 6:47 PM (approx.).

2. ROLL CALL - Nine directors present to form a quorum.

REGION	PRESENT	NAME (TITLE) SERVICE TERM 2025-2028	PRESENT	NAME (TITLE) SERVICE TERM 2023-2026
I	X	JAMES STEPHENS	X	JASON GARDNER
II	X	ABIGAIL DESESA (VICE PRESIDENT)	X	STEVEN HOWSE
III	ABSENT	DANIEL POLO	X	MICHAEL MINOR (TREASURER)
IV	X	DARCY STINSON	X	BOB LEWIS (PRESIDENT)
V	X	MOHAMMED SABBAH	X	CHRIS DITTES (SECRETARY)

3. INVOCATION

4. HEARING SESSION

- A. Approval of Agenda- Motion by Steve Howse, Second by James Stephens. Vote 9/0/0.
- B. Questions or comments on non-agenda items will be discussed during agenda item #12 Open Discussion.
- C. Fundraising- The council reminded attendees that they are a nonprofit organization and encouraged donations, which are tax-deductible.

Information on how to donate electronically was provided on the council's website.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

A. Public Safety.

- 1. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept. - Deputy Stephanie Noyola Deputy Stephanie Noyola reported on crime statistics for July, noting a total of 11 part one crimes in Castaic and 11 in Val Verde.



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2. California Highway Patrol - Officer Annett - Provided updates on traffic incidents, including multiple crashes and parking violations along Castaic Road.

Concerns were raised about trucks parking in red zones and blocking visibility for businesses, leading to dangerous situations.

Officer Annette confirmed that parking tickets were issued for violations, and there are plans to enhance enforcement in the area.

3. Los Angeles County Fire Dept. Community Services Liaison Maria Grycan Department reported 180 responses in July, including two training fires and numerous medical calls.

Chief Sprangle discussed recent major fires, including the Canyon fire, emphasizing the importance of early evacuations and community preparedness.

There is a red flag warning due to low humidity and high temperatures, necessitating vigilance against ignition sources. Additional resources, including engine companies and aircraft, have been deployed to ensure community safety.

Residents expressed gratitude to firefighters and first responders for their efforts during recent fire incidents. The community acknowledged the significant impact of the air support and ground efforts in combating fires.

Questions were raised about evacuation protocols and safety measures for the proposed BESS facility at the Parker Rd. exit. Chief Springle explained that evacuation plans would depend on the nature of the emergency and that training for first responders is ongoing. Concerns were voiced regarding the facility's location and potential risks to residents and businesses in the area.

4. Traffic Safety Committee - Michael Minor / James Stephens.- Updates were provided on the signal upgrade at Hasley Canyon, with an interim solution expected by late fall.

A proposal for median barriers on Castaic Road is moving forward after receiving minimal feedback from business owners.

New tow-away signage will be added to existing red curbs to enhance enforcement against illegal parking.

Residents raised concerns about the condition of Chiquita Canyon Road and the need for sandbags to prevent washouts after recent fires.

The status of repairs on Lake Hughes Road was questioned, with ongoing closures causing significant inconvenience.

Funding for road maintenance and improvements was discussed, with assurances that priority will be given to areas affected by recent disasters.

Discussion on the ambiguity of the center lane and the need for lane arrows to clarify it as a travel lane. Collaboration with CHP to potentially classify blocking the lane as a moving violation rather than a parking violation. The challenge is to enforce moving violations if drivers are not present when officers arrive.



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6. SPECIAL REPORTS

A. Report from 5th District; Los Angeles County Supervisor's Office of Kathryn Barger - Stephanie English.

A. Result of increase vote for Castaic North Bluffs LMD (Landscape Maintenance District) - LA County Dept. of Public Works - Yonah Halpern. Public Works Comments - The community voted against increasing landscaping fees, resulting in insufficient funding for brush clearance services. Public Works conducted extensive outreach, including community meetings and mailings, to inform residents about the vote's implications. Residents will now be responsible for their own brush clearance, as the annual assessment remains unchanged.

B. Chiquita Canyon Landfill - The CCL-CAC (Community Advisory Committee) meets the second Tuesday of each month. Last meeting Tuesday July 8th. Next meeting Tuesday August 12th. **website:** [https:// planning.lacounty.gov/public-hearings-and-meetings/chiquita-canyon-landfill/community-advisorycommittee](https://planning.lacounty.gov/public-hearings-and-meetings/chiquita-canyon-landfill/community-advisorycommittee)

MCAT - Multi-Agency Coordination Task Force (LA County Task Force incl. Dept. of Public Health, Local Enforcement Agency DPH, Dept. of Public Works, Dept. of Regional Planning), USEPA, CalEPA and five of its entities (Cal Recycle, DTSC, LA Regional Water Quality Control Board, CARB, OEHHA). **1811972**

C. South Coast AQMD - Updates on odor complaints, Notice of Violations (NOV), Order for Abatement. Updates on odor complaints and notices of violation issued by South Coast AQMD, with a significant number of complaints reported. The next status hearing for the order for abatement is scheduled for October. Discussion on the installation of a new geo membrane at the landfill to mitigate emissions.

Chiquita Canyon Landfill (A Waste Connection Company) Steve Cassulo / John Perkey. - No update. |

5. Legislative email updates. George Whitesides office - Shannon - announcement of a service Academy night event aimed at informing students about the application process for military academies. The event is scheduled for Wednesday, the 27th, at College of the Canyons, with representatives from various service academies attending. Efforts to promote the event through local social media channels were discussed.

State Senator Suzette Valladares' office- Chris Huff announced her retirement at the end of the month and provided contact information for their successors.

She expressed gratitude for the collaboration with the council and wished everyone well.



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7. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Homestead Renewable Energy Project - ESVolta - Juan Felipe Builes Sr. Manager Development.
L.A. County Regional Planning Site Plan Review approval (RPPL2024003892).

The project involves a 15MW battery energy storage system to alleviate overload at Southern California Edison's substation.

Community members expressed concerns about the safety of lithium batteries and the project's proximity to residential areas and major highways.

ES Volta confirmed that they follow current safety standards but acknowledged that they would not be obligated to upgrade to new standards once the project is completed.

The company emphasized their commitment to safety and the absence of fire incidents in their operating projects.

Community Engagement Concerns -Questions were raised about the company's lack of proactive communication with the local community regarding the project.

The speaker expressed frustration over the company's perceived lack of transparency and engagement with nearby businesses and residents.

The company stated that it is following the county's zoning ordinances but faced criticism for the lack of specific regulations for lithium battery storage facilities.

The company acknowledged the need to mitigate noise levels from the facility to avoid disturbing nearby hotels and residences.

Concerns were raised about the facility's proximity to high-pressure gas pipelines, flood zones, and other potential hazards.

The speaker expressed concerns about the lack of community input in the permitting process and the need for better engagement moving forward.

Questions were raised about whether new safety standards would apply to the facility as they are developed.

The council agreed to demand a meeting with regional planning officials to address community concerns and discuss the project's adherence to new guidelines.

Jennifer Elkins, representing the Val Verde Civic Association, stated that the community does not support the project and feels it poses environmental threats.

The council recognized the public's strong opposition to the project and the need for further discussions with the county regarding community interests.

Approval of Meeting Minutes- The council reviewed and approved the minutes from previous meetings, with some members abstaining due to not being part of the council at that time.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. Land Use Committee - Chair - Abigail DeSesa. - no items to report.



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- B. Parks and Recreation -
 - "Movie Night" Aug-21 at Val Verde inside club house, showing: "Minecraft"-
 - "Back to Val Verde community picnic" Saturday, Aug 30. Noon-6pm -
 - "Save the date for Hispanic Heritage "Thursday September 25, 5 - 8 pm.

9. TREASURER'S REPORT

- A. Treasurer's Report - Michael Minor gave report, emphasizing the need for further fund raising.

10. OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. I-5 North County Enhancement Project email update - Saroya Sandiford - L.A. Metro. - Freeway closures are done.
- B. Parks project list. - no changes
- B. Town Council priorities list. - no changes

11. COMMUNITY EVENTS

- A. Announcement of Community Events. - no other announcements.

12. OPEN DISCUSSION

Sponsorship opportunities for business donations.
Brief Love Ride discussion and notification.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Approval of minutes from previous Town Hall meetings:

May 21, 2025, Motion by Mike Minor, Second by Darcy Stinson. Vote 8/0/1.
June 18, 2025, Motion by James Stephens, Second by Darcy Stinson. Vote 8/0/1.
May 21, 2025, Motion by James Stephens, Second by Darcy Stinson. Vote 9/0/0.

14. CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

- A. Notice of Projects from Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning and other correspondence and/or Council Information. - no items.
- B. Discussion of any items on the Notices that may require action prior to the next Town Council meeting. - none



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15. CONSENT CALENDAR

Next Castaic Area Town Council Land Use Committee Meeting: 1st Monday of the month - T.B.D.

Next Castaic Area Town Council Agenda Planning Meeting: 1st Wednesday of the month - September 3, 2025

Next Castaic Area Town Council Committee Meetings: TBD

Next Castaic Area Town Council Town Hall Meeting: 3rd Wednesday of each month - September 17, 2025

16. ADJOURNMENT @ 09:21pm.

Motion by Chris Dittes. Second by Steve Howse. Vote 9/0/0.