



MINUTES

Meeting Location - Online:

Zoom: Webinar -

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NOTE: The Castaic Area Town Council are holding the monthly council meeting(s) online and provide a public viewing option via Zoom and the CATC Facebook page: @CastaicTownCouncil .

To allow for public interaction, you may submit comments and questions by filling out the comment/question form on the CATC web site www.castaictowncouncil.org . Please include your name, address, and which agenda item your comment and/or question is regarding. Web site comment/question forms must be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m. the day of the scheduled meeting.

During the meeting you may submit your comment and questions on the Zoom link using the chat link but must include your name, address, and agenda item number. If you make a Request to Speak you will be limited to 3 minutes per person (please state that you are making a Request to Speak and you will be called on during discussion of that agenda item).

1. CALL TO ORDER @6:41P.

2. ROLL CALL

REGION	PRESENT	NAME (TITLE) SERVICE TERM 2021-2025	PRESENT	NAME (TITLE) SERVICE TERM 2019-2023
I	AB	ANDREW CHAMBERS	X	JESSICA CHAMBERS
II	X	ABIGAIL DESESA	<input type="checkbox"/>	VACANT
III	X	DAVID BOYER (SECRETARY)	X	ERIC LARSON
IV	X	JEFF PREACH	X	BOB LEWIS (PRESIDENT)
V	X	JIM D'ADDARIO (TREASURER)	X	CHRIS DITTES (VICE PRESIDENT)



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3. HEARING SESSION

A. Approval of Agenda

Motion by A.DeSesa. Second by J.Chambers. Vote 8/0/0.

B. Questions and Comments _____.

Note: If a question/comment form is sent regarding a matter that is on the agenda, the question or comment will be read when the agenda item is brought up. Questions or comments on non-agenda items will be discussed during agenda item #9 Open Discussion.

- 2 Written Comments received and will be read into record during Community Request to speak for that topic.
- Announced upcoming election for CATC and now accepting applications. Form for application is available on the CATC website.

4. SPECIAL REPORTS

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

1. Route Fire & I-5 repairs - Traffic Gridlock.

LACFD, Caltrans, CHP, LASD, L.A. County Public Works, Supervisor Barger's office, State Senator Wilk's office, Assemblywoman Valladares office.

- Council: Will allow each agency to present. Council will make questions/comments. Then will open to community request to speak. Presenters in order of events as they occurred.
- S. English Supv. Office: Opening Comments. Called out CHP for exceptional efforts during event. Supv. Barger heavily involved and sent letter to the Governor directly. Thanked Pitchess for allowing access for emergency services. Asked LACounty Fire to present. Thanked participants for attending and presenting.
- LACFD: Assistant Fire Chief Pat Sprengel: Division 3 - Castaic including Gorman and SCV. 1.5mi N. of Lake Hughes Road. 5,208 acres total. Temperatures 104-109f. Started at noon. I-5 North, I-5 South and Ridge Route Road all closed simultaneously. Spread in 4 different directions. North Lake, Paradise Mobile Home Park and Ridge Route Mandatory Evacuations. Review Fire Movements by hour. Major Successes: Cooperating agencies and utilities smoothly. Timely availability of resources. Defended decisions to close roadways. Council: Who makes the determination to issue mandatory evacuation? When an evacuation is issued, who is contacted? PS: Is Incident Commander's call. CHP and LACSD assist and are in cooperation.
- CalTrans, Lauren Wonder Chief Media Relations and Public Affairs: Gloria Robers Acting District Director Caltrans District 7: Will have construction personnel present. Introduced to CalTrans leadership team. John Yang; Presented presentation. Opened N.Bound lanes at 7:45p, fire started at noon. 9/01 assessed damages. Wall burned thru Monday/Labor Day. Timber lagging is what burned. Review how retaining wall was built. Monday did assessment. Presented slides showing. 108f temperature during work day. Concerned as Hurricane K approaching with eta Friday following fire. Plan made to pave shoulder previously excavated for other project. Contractor mobilized carefully and worked on on-site revisions to efficiently complete lane addition. Reviewed wall planned repair. Contractor is coordinating, arranging components, sub-contractor for shot crete scheduling, etc.. Had issues with snow gate. Council: Why is SOP to send into Castaic. Should be stopped at 126. Rafael Molina CalTrans: Reviewed actions taken and messaging done. Council: Re: companies i.e. WAZE that send traffic to The Old Road. Is CalTrans working with these companies. Gloria Robers, CalTrans; Hard Closure of I-5 at 126. Council: Project Snowflake assumption it works is not correct.



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It is a failure. Seconded call to shut down I-5 at 126. Rafael Molina, CalTrans; assess how respond to incidents in the future. Dodson Okereke, CalTrans; Will look at how traffic in the corridor is handled in an emergency moving forward. Council: Scales on I-5 prior to 126 and diverted. Possibly allow cars thru to Castaic to snow gate to be re-routed South. Mentioned snow card for residents to allow for residents to gain access for efficiency. Comment: Appreciate work arounds by CalTrans and CHP. Limited lane closures created more gridlock than full Interstate closure. What is the interaction with the County during these events? Any portable emergency sign, once is past on/off ramp is County? Not the first time we have had gridlock in the community. Is there an EAP that includes all agencies State and County? What is the EAP and what agencies are involved and if not one, is way past due for Castaic emergency events. Dotson, CalTrans; Snowflake is that process. Lot of agencies are involved and coordinated. Hearing need to improve how handle traffic in this corridor. LACSD. Will provide details of who is involved following meeting. Council: Re: Snowflake operations, have tried 126 prior, but they didn't want the traffic there. 5 avenues for dispersal of traffic vs. current SOP in Castaic which allows only 1. Community request for years, asking The Old Road be restricted to residents only. Would CalTrans need to be part of that discussion. Dotson; yes want to be part of discussion on this point. Decision is best made with coordination of CalTrans AND County. Both affected by each others determinations.

- CHP: Captain Ed Krusey: Responsible for I-5, 14, 126, 138, Canyon Roads, etc.. 69 officers total. 8/31 - 9/12; 7-9 officers scheduled. Labor day 12 officers scheduled. Annual average daily traffic; 2019; N.Bound 135,000/day. Cuts in half from Rye Canyon to Lake Hughes at 70+ thousand. 2019 installed emergency gate to turnaround N.bound traffic due to weather events. Stakeholders list for operation Snowflake events and CATC is on list. Asked for officers from Southern Division ranged from 70-100 in all of LA County in an afternoon. Fire started during day watch with 7 officers on work shift. During Operation Snowflake events there is pre-planning opportunities. In Route Fire incident there was not ability to preplan and place assets where needed. 2p closed S.Bound lanes. CHP Officers worked in 108f to do self directed traffic control. Discussed routing software. Off. Wilson recommended shutting NB Parker off ramp. Appeared to be extremely successful. Became daily practice until additional north bound lanes were opened. LACPW did place local signs. One day Officers did screen NB traffic on The Old Road. Screening for locals caused bad backups into Hasley Canyon back to Franklin, so abandoned checking cars on Old Road for locals only. Under stands about pushing traffic to exit at 126; is only 2 paths into Castaic which merge at Roundabout. Concerned with 70,000 off ramp exits between 126 and Lake Hughes and what would happen if force off at 126. No commercial restrictions in Castaic for Commercial vehicles or posted restrictions. Using scales to filter commercial traffic is a good idea. Concerned with staffing levels of 7 people to cover. Not all can do traffic control at beginning of events. Council: Can Sheriff assist in these events? Yes and is great working relationship, problem is both sides have limited resources. Work in unified command. Life and Property must be addressed first. Council: Gratitude to CHP. Re: portable messaging signs. Council: Does this area have traffic controllers? Sheriff: No. CalTrans: No. Council: Statistics for holiday peaks? Re: Scales, suggestion is to divide out Commercial at that point from public. Allows cars to flow to off ramps past 126, but keeps trucks from entering corridor past 126 and jamming up the roads. Suggest Divide and Conquer as approach. Capt. Krusey; trucks do have communications to send into scales.
- Stephanie English: respect length of days and possibly another format for future. Respect everyone's long days.
- Los Angeles Sheriff Captain Justin Diez and Capt. Rooney: In incidents like Route Fire are in unified command. Sheriff vs. CHP; Once evacuation is ordered Sheriff's department implements the evacuation. Limited resources. 3 cars maximum in unincorporated any given time/day. Re: screening process, i.e. closure to only residents results in exponentially larger delays and gridlock. Focus is life and property first. Check Points is major undertaking. Budgeted for 245 personnel and current ly down 75 personnel. Overtime is issue as personnel reaching maximum allowable hours by policy.



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- Commander Paula Tokar; Pitchess Detention Center. Will always assist in instances of public life. Is a small 2 lane road that presents security issues. In event of an evacuation, they would not hesitate to do so. As matter of practice, no this is not a viable option. Are part of the unified command.
- Council: What does the County do on regular basis in events like this gridlock? If there was a determination to close Old Road to only residents, who makes that decision? Old Road is not acceptable, what does DPW need to get Old Road improvement made? Steve Burger Deputy Director of Transportation for Public Works. Had a brief presentation from Julian Garcia, but due to time of evening will expedite and not present. Incident commander was Julian Garcia. Old Road corridor is money issue. Need to secure funding. Re: Flaggers; not ability now for DPW to do this. Responsibility goes to Law Enforcement. LA City does have and could be an option in future, but not currently. In process of resetting up Community Task Force. Reinvigorating this effort. CATC will have input. Council: Appreciate opportunity to share community input.
- Supervisor will issue motion at next Board of Supervisor's meeting.
- Senator Wilks and Rep. Valladeres offices: Council: Only one road other than I-5 and is designated as a secondary highway, and designated as an emergency highway out of Los Angeles. Always say funding is issue. IF State is designating this road as Emergency highway and should fund this function. Anthony Angelini, Assemblyman Valladeres; is the #1 issue in their office right now. Committed to finding long term solutions. An intergovernmental activity. SoCalEdison also was heavily involved along Ridge Route Road. Replaced 30 power poles in matter of days. Lauren Wonder thanked for keeping notifications coming. As far as long term solutions, Assemblywoman has been clear this is top priority. Any shovel ready project they will fight tooth and nail to get funded. Multiple opportunities in 2008 and 2011 and never got off the ground. Office received hundreds of calls per day during this incident. Anish Saraya, Planning and Public Works Deputy for Supervisor Barger: While there were previous efforts to move forward shovel ready projects. County has been doing is due diligence, but this is not a project sitting in development for 15 years. Previous funding efforts would not have been available to us. Assemblywoman Valladeres office Anthony; focus on funding and what we can get done. Nick VaVerka, Senator Wilk's office: made calls and issued communications to various groups. Council: No Comments.
 2. Community requests to speak on Fire & I-5 repairs traffic gridlock issues.
 - *Request to Speak" limited to 3 minutes per person (please state that you are making a "Request to Speak" in the zoom chat option and you will be called on to speak after the various agencies presentations and council comments/questions). Note: the "Request to Speak" limit may be reduced to 1 or 2 minutes if we have a large number of requests.
- Mike Minor, Request to Speak: Comment, Thanks to Law Enforcement, First Responders, CalTrans.
 3. Sloan Canyon Road Traffic & Safety - Julian Garcia email update.
 - Still more work to be completed, some back orders on materials. For Castaic Road, studying to ensure any corrective actions due to not cause emergency access issues.
 4. Castaic High School secondary road - email update.
 - Note received from Hard District personnel. Hoping the road will be ready by mid 2024. Enrollment limit is 1600. Now; preparations and testing is taking longer due to requirements and feedback from County. Owner access issue for doing testing. Road completion will be pushed out to at least latter part of 2024. Re: 1600 student question, this will not be reached for approx. 7 years. Hart intention is to open the road as soon as completed even if enrollment does not reach 1600 students.
- B. Report from 38th Assembly District; Assemblywoman Suzette Martinez Valladares - Patsy Ayala.
 - *postponed until next month.
- C. Report from 21st Senate District; Senator Scott Wilk - Kris Hough.



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*postponed until next month.

- D. Report from 25th Congressional District - Congressman Mike Garcia - Tami Stephens.
*postponed until next month.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND PRESENTATION

- A. Public Safety - Chair - Bob Lewis.

1. Pitchess Detention Center - Commander Paula Tokar.

2. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept. - Deputy Rooney / Captain Justin Diez
- Will present next month. 5th district summer team stats will be shared then as well.

3. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept. Park Bureau - Sgt. Bohnert - Email Report.
*postponed until next month.

4. California Highway Patrol - Officer Wilson.
- Will go over next month.

5. Los Angeles County Fire Dept. - Community Services Liaison Maria Grycan - Email Report.
- Chief Sprengel; will defer review until next month. Council: Cause of Route Fire? Chief Sprengel:
Nothing yet. Still under investigation.

- B. Parks and Recreation - Chair - Bob Lewis.

1. Castaic Lake State Recreation Area Report - Hector Inzuna / Chris Mowry / Hugo Maldonado.
*postponed until next month.

2. Castaic Sports Complex - Daniel Lopez.
*postponed until next month.

3. Castaic Aquatic Center & Val Verde Pool - Luis Torres / Marisol Gonzalez.
*postponed until next month.

- C. Land Use Committee - Chair - Jim D'Addario.
- Day to day activity, but no meeting planned at this time.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

- D. Treasurer's Report - Jim D'Addario.

1. Treasurer's report for September 2022.

- Only a ZOOM payment to report. Reports emailed out.

7. OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Public Works road maintenance/repair/paving update.
*postponed until next month.



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- B. Parks project list update.
*postponed until next month.
- C. Town Council priorities list.
*postponed until next month.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Announcement of Town Council Election (Tues. Nov. 8th) and call for candidates.
- Council: On website, gives instructions on how to apply for any position. 5 open positions. We will put in an application form tomorrow. \$50 application fee to be mailed to PO box on website. Wednesday October 19 is next CATC Town Hall meeting and any applicants can make brief introduction statement during this meeting. Voting is on a Saturday from 9a-4p. All announcements will be made on the FaceBook Page. Reviewed regions. Map on website also shows regions. Jessica as Chair will be happy to provide assistance to anyone having questions. Council: Could be Tuesday November 8th. Bylaws allow Tuesday or Saturday. Suggest candidates have statements available on their platforms for inquiring voting citizens to review.
- Friday September 30th Rotary Presentation/Speakers on Human Trafficking. SCV is starting to have this issue in our community.
- Santa Float Fund Raiser: Within 24 hours received in excess of \$1,000. Goal is \$5,000.

9. OPEN DISCUSSION

- A. To ensure that the public's business is conducted openly, State Law - Section 54954.2 prevents any action or discussion on items not listed on the Agenda. (Note: Council members may briefly respond to comments made or questions posed.)

10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Approval of minutes from Town Hall meeting of August 17, 2022.

Motion by C. Dittes. Second by A.DeSesa. Vote 6/0/2.

11. CORRESPONDENCE/COUNCIL INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

- A. Notice of Projects from Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning and other correspondence and/or Council Information.
- *None received.*



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- B. Discussion of any items on the Notices that may require action prior to the next Town Council meeting.

12. CONSENT CALENDAR

Next Castaic Area Town Council Agenda Planning Meeting: 1st Wednesday of each month - October 5, 2022

Next Castaic Area Town Council Land Use Committee Meeting: 1st Monday of the month - October 3, 2022

Next Castaic Area Town Council Committee Meetings: TBD

Next Castaic Area Town Council Town Hall Meeting: 3rd Wednesday of each month - October 19, 2022

13. ADJOURNMENT @9:42P.

Motion by J.Preach. Second by J.D'Addario. Vote 8/0/0.