



MONTE NIDO VALLEY



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



*A Dark Sky Community*

E-NEWSLETTER

March April 2018

---

## WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

MNVCA takes on FAA and Air Traffic Noise over Monte Nido—updates will be on the Agenda at April MNVCA Board Meeting

Plans for a large housing development on Las Virgenes are in play again

Invitation to join MNVCA for 2018 and attend next MNVCA Board Meeting April 10, 2018

Minutes from Feb 2018 MNVCA Board meetings

## **Newly Altered Aircraft Flight Patterns Prompt Coastal Communities' Complaints-- Updates**

Thanks again to MNVCA Board member Alicia Gonzalez for spearheading a new campaign to get the attention of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and convince the powers that be to alter the flight patterns over Monte Nido and nearby coastal communities back to their pre-NextGen Aviation elevations and routes.

The Team working at this has been working hard contacting other nearby communities, surveying businesses that may be affected by aircraft noise, and holding forums on the topic. Plan to attend the April 10 MNVCA Board meeting for more details and updates.

## **Malibu Canyon Community Association opposes Canyon Oaks Development—Again**

**We have heard from a neighboring Community association that plans for a large development on Las Virgenes Rd are in play again.**

**The plan for a similar development was voted down in a Calabasas City-wide referendum in 2016. Below is the text of the summary received.**

Here is a summary of where the case stands now:

Although the Canyon Oaks Project was defeated by Calabasas voters at the November 2016 election, the developer (The New Home Company) has submitted revised plans for another subdivision project at the same 77.2-acre site as the Canyon Oaks Project. This new project, now called the “West Village Project,” proposes to develop 182,550 square feet of residential housing (180 units) and a 5,867 retail center. The project site contains sensitive ecological resources, including an ephemeral drainage channel and wetlands. The project would be built over native grassland, coastal sage scrub, and oak woodlands. Most of the project site is designated “Open Space–Resource Protected” (OSRP) by the Calabasas General Plan. Like the flawed EIR for the Canyon Oaks Project, the initial study for the West Village Project EIR does not disclose that significant portions of the project site encroach into land that is designated as OSRP.

The project site is also part of a significant, north-south wildlife linkage and corridor (the Las Virgenes Canyon Linkage), which is part of a major regional system of wildlife habitat linkages, known as the “Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Connection,” which connects core open-space wildlands of the Santa Monica Mountains (generally south of the 101 Freeway) to the Simi Hills, the Santa Susana Mountains, and the Sierra Madre Ranges of the Los Padres National Forest (generally north of the 101 Freeway).

Like the Canyon Oaks Project, the West Village Project depends on mass grading to flatten an ancient landslide on the southern portion of the project site. This grading involves an estimated 2,403,418 cubic yards of cut, and an estimated 2,406,971 cubic yards of fill. It would destroy native oak woodland and native grassland. The city keeps turning a blind eye to these impacts even though most of the grading would occur on land

that is designated as OSRP. The New Home Company claims that the grading is “necessary” to repair the landslide and to protect the residential units against slides, but there is no need to repair the landslide if The New Home Company instead reduces the development footprint to avoid the ecologically sensitive open space habitat areas in the path of a potential future slide.

At a public scoping meeting last September, the city announced the draft EIR for the West Village Project would be released in December 2017 or January 2018. The city also announced that public hearings on the final EIR for the project would be held by May 2018.

### **MNVCA Membership**

The 2018 Annual membership letters to all the households in Monte Nido will be mailed out soon. This letter invites you to join or renew membership (if lapsed) in Monte Nido Valley Community

Memberships are for the calendar year 2018 starting from the date membership dues are received. The annual fee is only \$75 and it all goes to supporting Monte Nido neighborhood events and causes that keep our community special. It also entitles members to vote at the end of the year at the election for Board Directors for calendar year 2019.

You do not have to wait for your letter. The address to send your membership form to is

**MNVCA at P.O. Box 8054, Calabasas  
91372.  
Gary Bardovi Treasurer**

**When you join as a new member you can get a free Monte Nido Community Directory put together recently thanks to Cathy Sieling. Email Carrie Baltin to arrange to pick up your copy at  
[carrie@baltinassociates.com](mailto:carrie@baltinassociates.com)**

**Carrie can also provide you with a copy of the “red book” guide to preparing for emergency evacuations put together especially for communities like Monte Nido by the local equestrian group.**

### **Next MNVCA Board Meeting**

**The Board meetings are held the second Tuesdays of the month starting at 7:00 PM. In some years, we hold meetings every other month. In other years, it is closer to every month. Check your email from Jill Reiss at  
[MNVCANewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:MNVCANewsletter@gmail.com) for Board meeting dates and locations.**

**The next meeting for 2018 is set for April 10, 2018 at the home of Gary Bardovi at 845 Cold Canyon Rd. More discussions and updates from the FAA/Air Traffic task force will be on the agenda. Also a regular agenda topic at these meeting are matters relating to nearby development/construction projects that can effect the rural character of our community Plan to join us at any of these monthly meetings to stay**

## **apprised of neighborhood events and projects.**

### **MNVCA Board Meeting Minutes - February 13, 2018 at Joan Slimocosky's house**

Carrie Baltin called the meeting to order at 7:04PM.

Present from the Board: Carrie Baltin, Alicia Gonzalez, Ann Monahan, Heidi Stompe, Mary Helen Young, Joan Slimocosky, Judy Goldin, Jane Cudworth, Jill Reiss, Sally Livingston, Gary Bardovi, Maria Ioan, Ilda Jacobsen

Present from the Community: Stephanie Abronson, Sheila Rosenthal, Gail Lowe, Lee Renger, Adriaan and Sherry van't Riet

Old Business:

Agenda Changes/Additions – none

Minutes from last meeting – previously approved

Treasurer's Report – Gary Bardovi reported. 1 new membership has been received (not a renewal). There were no outgoing funds this month. Question – when do membership years begin and end? At calendar year? Or one year from date check is received? A. – Memberships run for the calendar year. Suggestion was made to put an announcement every month in the newsletter to encourage people to join, stating that it's for the calendar year. Add that directories and Red Books are available to all paid members. Also announce the same on Next Door. Should we give directories to all new residents via local realtors?

Can we get a better address list for our emails?  
We have fewer recipients than Next Door

registers are living in Monte Nido. And they are not organized well to include/eliminate non-residents who get our emails for other reasons. We need someone who is tech savvy to help us bring our mailing lists up to date.

Can we post on Next Door to encourage people to be MNVCA members and to enroll in email lists? Alicia will post on Next Door to encourage people to send their emails to mnvcnewsletter.com. Jill will forward those emails to Alicia as they are received.

Correspondence – Gary Bardovi reported – We received a request from Salvation Army for a donation. We gave a donation after the Fire Safety Education meeting.

Federation Report – Joan Slimocosky reported – There were no meetings for the past couple of months but one is on the calendar for Feb. Airplane noise is on agenda. Kim Lamorie has invited Parks and Federal agencies that can have some impact to attend. Work on building a database to preserve memories via oral histories from people who have been historically involved in local advocacy is continuing by a subcommittee. Fantasy Island, Firehouse Hill, SOKA, Water District, are all examples of victories where the community prevailed. The next meeting is Feb 21 at Diamond X Ranch.

FAA Airport Noise – Gary Bardovi shared that he got the app and submitted many comments. Then he realized that it made him more focused on the sound and he felt that he wants to be doing more.

Alicia Gonzalez reported – In General: This is a battle that we are fighting about something that has already been implemented, as opposed to many of the fights that MNVCA waged as preventative against things that were proposed. Every time we communicate with Joey Apodaca

(at Rep. Ted Lieu's office), Feinstein, LAX or FAA, the response is "this is the proper way to register comments". They count comments and individuals. So we need to keep the effort going until the FAA formally says they acknowledge that Monte Nido has a problem and they will look into it. Planes start at 4:30AM, and average every 6 minutes. Today, when electricity went off for a while, there was no ambient noise and the plane noise became very salient. In 15 minutes there were 10 flights! (Alicia counted.)

An important question for FAA is why Monte Nido is in cross hairs of so many flight paths.

Most recent update: Some very persistent neighbors heard from Feinstein yesterday. The neighbor has been writing letters to FAA and Feinstein wrote back that she shares our concern and understands that noise may be excessive. FAA has indicated it may update its standards for measuring noise in response to complaints. FAA says before the NexGen change was implemented, it held public hearings and concluded there would be no significant impact. Feinstein is responding. Today, representatives from offices of Congresswoman Karen Bass, Sen. Diane Feinstein, Sen. Kamala Harris, Congressman Ted Lieu, and L.A. City Council President Herb Wesson went to TRACON in San Diego to meet with air traffic controllers for the whole southern California region to see what can be done and to get info. So our complaints are being heard. Alicia asked Lieu to access raw data about complaints coming in. At our last MNVCA meeting, Apodaca said there was an open public comment period for FAA that would end in March. Alicia

asked about it and Lieu's office said there is no such thing. (Yes, that's contradictory – that's the point.) It sounds like FAA really isn't soliciting input.

Alicia will send FAA contact info again to Board members. Also there's a website called flightaware that's supposed to show flight paths but they're not always accurate for altitude.

Next/continuing efforts: Peta Goldsmith is collecting testimonials. It is time to form an official committee with clear communication channels. We need a domain site. Godaddy is suggested. Alicia and Rick Mullen will be attending Aircraft Noise and Emissions Symposium in Long Beach. She's going to two workshops: Air Noise 101 and Air Emissions 101. Hopefully, more interested parties will become involved at the next Federation Meeting,

Stakeholders who might have an interest and be persuaded to become involved in a coalition: Malibu Lagoon State Beach, Nobu, Malibu Bluffs/Pepperdine, Our Lady of Malibu, Webster Elementary (good contact because FAA doesn't want to disturb schools) Malibu Presbyterian and preschool, Hughes (sensitive equipment disturbed?), Francisco Ranch, Wildlife Center, Monte Nido Residential Treatment Center, Saddle Peak Lodge, Camp Gilmore, Parks Docent Groups, Camp David Gonzales, Hindu Temple, Muse Schools, AE Wright, Montessori School, Church in the Canyon. Alicia will email a script to board members about a way to approach these people to ascertain level of concerns and willingness to affiliate with our group to protest.

2 requests of all elected officials. 1. At LAX Noise Roundtable, it became apparent that lots of communities are affected and staff at LAX is overburdened, so we are asking for additional funding to staff that. 2. Also requesting something like an Environmental Impact Study (EIR) so we can establish how much we are impacted and demand changes.

Airbnb – Carrie reported: Nicole in Sheila Keuhl's office has placed an agenda item on next month's Board of Supervisors meeting to discuss zoning restrictions. Questions of the rules governing them are to be discussed.

Lighting – Saddle Peak has new lighting. No info on compliance is available. Should we have another speaker on Dark Skies? But the same people will be at the meetings.

Vintage – still doing brush clearance as required.

Storage containers – someone from LA Regional Planning's office in downtown LA came to investigate local containers. Ordinance says you can't have them and they will be removed.

New Business: Winter Banquet – Shall we include the community? Have it at a restaurant? Malibu Lake? It will be a spring banquet at this point since we are planning late. Ann Monahan will head a committee to try to find a location for a reasonably priced party. Budget about \$50/person.

Fleeman's House/Meadow is for sale. Tracy and Patty are listing agents. Can we consider Tapia Park to hold our events?

July 4 Parade: Sheriffs say if we contact them around March they can plan ahead for personnel with no charge to us.

Lee Renger, LVMWD – We are still in a drought. Officially, it's a moderate La Niña. NOAA hosted a conference and pointed out at beginning of 2017 the drought map of CA was all dark, i.e. all drought and some extreme. Today, it's almost all clear except an area within a 50-mile radius from right here. We are pretty OK for water supplies for this year because of storage from last year, and reservoirs are quite full, except Oroville. In the Central Valley, during the last few years, the water table was severely drawn down and has had no chance to recover. They are still over-drafting water.

Pure water project, dealing with Tapia effluent, is moving forward. LVMWD is setting up a pilot plant in old HQ building. It will be a learning center, open to public to get us used to the idea. LVMWD is about to purchase a 7-acre plot on Agoura Road for \$2.1 million. It will hold the water recycling plant. 3 CA districts are currently recycling wastewater. The project will take about 13 years to complete. The present estimate of overall cost = \$95 million. There won't be much impact in our monthly bills. Savings from water not purchased from Metro Water District will offset the cost. There are 26,000 hookups in total in LVMWD.

The driving force for this is the need to increase purity of effluent going into creek. Every 5 years we have to apply to renew the Tapia permit and every time it becomes more stringent. This last time the standard was better than drinking water. Lawsuits to change it failed. So it's better to reuse the water than to put it into the creek. The irony is that in the height of summer, when flow is low, we are required to put effluent into creek.

No meeting in March.

Adjourned at 8:39PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Reiss  
Secretary



**The Next MNVCA Board Meeting will be on April 10, 2018 at the home of Gary Bardovi at 845 Cold Canyon Rd.**

**Members of the Community are invited and encouraged to attend the Board meetings.**

**How to reach us:**

**Send your email address to Jill Reiss, the MNVCA secretary, at [mnvcanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mnvcanewsletter@gmail.com), to receive announcements of meetings, community activities, and the time and location of our Board meetings.**

**President: Carrie Baltin 818-224-4696  
Vice Pres: Joan Slimocosky 818-591-1082  
Treasurer: Gary Bardovi 818-222-0313  
Secretary: Jill Reiss 818-222-1995**

**Contributions to the newsletter can be sent to the editor Mary Helen Young  
at  
[youngsmh@earthlink.net](mailto:youngsmh@earthlink.net)**