

# ANTELOPE VALLEY

## Regional Planning Advisory Committee

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Antelope Valley RPAC  
Minutes of 2/2/23 (6:30pm) Zoom meeting

### Attendees:

RPAC: Arden Gerbig, Patti H-C, Debbie Bush, John Vannoy, Bruce Woodworth, Katy Buell, Sally Rosen, Mark Langner.

Mono Co: Wendilyn Grasseschi, John Peters, Wendy Sugimura, Chris Mokracek

Other Agencies: Doug Power (USMC), Sherri Lisius (BLM)

Public: three

Approve minutes of January 5, 2023: (H-C/Bush) passed.

Decide on meeting location and format options: Alternative meeting methods were discussed. Concerns were raised about having to post private locations and location restrictions if meeting were to continue as virtual-only meetings.

Motion to conduct future AVRAC meetings in-person at the Community Center (H-C/Vannoy) passed 6/2.

### Informational/Discussion items

Sherri Lisius ([slisius@blm.gov](mailto:slisius@blm.gov)), the new BLM Bishop Field Manager, introduced herself and presented a powerpoint program. She has been working at the Field Office since 2011. There are 30 staff members including two Law Enforcement Officers responsible for 750,000 acres working at the FO. Patti asked about post-fire clean-up, John V asked about Juniper removal and Mark expressed concern about declining Pinon Jay populations.

Marcella Rose, the new Mono County Sustainable Recreation Coordinator, introduced herself and discussed the Mountain Gate Park, the Adopt a Trail program, the Tangle-free Waters program and other wildlife projects.

Chris Mokracek, Mono County Director of Emergency Management, provided an update on recent activities. He discussed self-reporting of storm damage, the tax filing deadline extension, wildfire protection and mitigation, the importance of establishing a local Fire Safe Counsel. John V suggested that a sno-cat be provided to the AVVFD for emergency use. Doug said that the USMC does not have any surplus sno-cats. Mark suggested that a mobile chipper and crew be provided to the public to deal the vegetation broken and damaged by the heavy snows. Kati asked why the County plowed Golden Gate Road when there are other roads that are much more important and left unplowed. Debbie discussed the need to provide snow plowing for at-risk folks.

### Monthly reports

#### RPAC member reports/comments:

Mark reported that the first wildfire of the season was reportedly caused by a downed power line in Inyo County - the fire was small due to the snow coverage. Mark reported on correspondence that he had with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist concerning bear releases in our area: bears are not routinely relocated to our area and have been released only twice - in one instance the bear was released near Bridgeport and then traveled west and into Yosemite NP where it remains, in the other the bear returned to the Mono Basin within a week and was shot. Bears with ear tags are part of a

population and range study and the tags do not indicate the animal was moved to this area. He said that the 'bear problem' is actually a 'people/bear problem' and needs to be managed that way.

Doug Power presented an MWTC update. There are currently 1500 troops on the mountain.

John Peters presented a Supervisor's Report. He reported that 40m in fuels reduction funding is available and that the County will be installing a new radio system.

Wendilyn Grasseschi ([wgrasseschi@mono.ca.gov](mailto:wgrasseschi@mono.ca.gov)), the County Wildfire Mitigation Coordinator introduced herself. She will organize, coordinate, and assess countywide activities related to wildfire mitigation.

Wendy Sugimura presented a Planning update. She reported that the marijuana farm PC permit has been appealed to the BOS. A cell tower extension and appeal of an RV storage decision are before the county. She reported that Community Development Department is very short staffed; besides Wendy there are only two part time planners - because of the staff shortage next month's RPAC meeting is cancelled.

Submitted by Mark Langner