

Vitality Advisory Council of Oceano

Minutes for Tuesday, May 12, 2026, | 6:00 PM

Roll Call and Procedural Actions

Roll Call – Attendance:

- Members Present: Karen White, April Paz, Cucco-Barrera, Marios Pouyioukkas, Kim Rose
- Absences: Linda Austin, Gina Mc Mahon

Agenda:

- Item 9.C added regarding the 100-year bridge celebration.
- Public Comment reinstated as Item 6.5 before guest presentations.
- Agenda and prior meeting minutes approved.

House Rules:

- House rules reiterated – courtesy, three-minute speaking guideline, bathroom locations, cell phones off.

Public Comment for Items Not on Agenda

South County Sanitation District Relocation and Water Recycling

A statement was provided about the South County Sanitation District relocation of its wastewater treatment facility due to flood and sea-level rise risks. Shared among Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach, and Oceano, the project would cost over \$300 million and must include advanced water recycling under state policy. Public outreach and grant funding were encouraged. regarding long-term planning for potential relocation of the South County Sanitation

Guest Presentation

County Fireworks Ordinance – Greg Angelo, Five Cities Fire Authority

Greg Angelo of the Five Cities Fire Authority presented information regarding the county fireworks ordinance effective June 19, 2026.

- All fireworks, including Safe and Sane fireworks, are prohibited in Oceano.
- Property owners may be fined \$1,000 per ignition occurring on their property.
- Health and Safety Code violations carry fines from \$1,000 to \$2,000.
- Parents or guardians may be held responsible for violations involving minors.
- The County may recover firefighting, emergency response, and prevention costs.
- Enforcement will be conducted by the Sheriff's Office and Cal Fire.
- Five Cities Fire Authority will continue responding to emergencies but will not conduct enforcement activities.
- Discussion included emergency response times and costs associated with restoring local fire services. Equipment costs cited included approximately \$2 million for a ladder truck and \$1 million for a fire engine.

Guest Reports

Planning Liaison Transition

- Michael Zepeda announced his reassignment and final meeting as Oceano liaison.
- New Planning Department liaison introduced: Monse Casillas.
- Ms. Casillas shared her background with Cal Poly and San Luis Obispo County Planning and indicated she would continue work on Oceano projects.

Referrals

1855 St. David Vacation Rental

- Adequate on-site parking was noted.
- No concerns were identified regarding the application.
- Members discussed broader concerns regarding short-term rentals and housing availability.
- County staff reported the Board of Supervisors recently adopted annual renewal fees and hired a short-term rental program manager.
- Staff advised that the permit had already received ministerial approval; no Council action was required.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer absent.
- Reported balance: \$1,649.

New Business

Nothing to report.

Project Updates

Highway 1 "America 250" Flags and Displays

- Grant funding application submitted for patriotic displays along Highway 1.
- Original banner concept revised to flags due to mounting limitations.
- Additional funding is being sought for installation.
- A \$1,000 donation request was submitted to OPARC.
- Goal remains installation before July 4.

America 250 Event – June 26

- Plans underway to rededicate Triangle Park and install a plaque recognizing the plaza time capsule.
- Event to be hosted by the Oceano Depot Association.

Oceano Airport Display Day

- Free community event announced featuring aircraft displays and barbecue.
- Proceeds benefit the Lucy Amar Aviation Education Program.

Bridge Centennial Planning

- Council agreed to continue planning for the 2027 centennial celebration of the Highway 1 bridge over the railroad tracks.
- Item to remain in future agendas.

Traffic Safety and Caltrans Coordination

Residents expressed concerns regarding speeding and pedestrian safety near the Highway 1 bridge.

- Requests for improved speed signage.
- Requests for a pedestrian-activated crosswalk and flashing beacons.
- Concerns regarding missing sidewalks on the west side of Highway 1.
- Reports on vehicle collisions and near-miss incidents.
- Caltrans is considering approximately \$2 million in transportation improvements for Oceano and will seek community input.

Action Items

- Chair to contact Caltrans regarding speed reduction measures, pedestrian crossings, and sidewalk completion.
- Continue pursuing funding for Highway 1 flags and displays.
- Maintain Bridge Centennial planning as a standing agenda item.

Adjournment

Next meeting: June 9, 2026, at 6:00 PM