

MEETING NOTES – THERMAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
March 23, 2009

Highlights of Key Issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Transportation Department was looking into the need of a light on Ave. 66, in front of the Mega School. 2. The Council unanimously approved the closure of Airport Blvd. by CalTrans and the County for 5 months to work on the bridge. 3. The new design guidelines for Christ is Salvation Church were approved unanimously by the Council. 4. Ernesto updated the Council on the Airport Authority meeting, in which the County and involved parties requested to reduce the cost of hosting the Jacqueline Cochran Airport Airshow.
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Meeting Notes for Thermal Community Council		
Date: March 23, 2009		
In Attendance: Sergio Duran, Mike Wells, Ernesto Rios, Marco Celedon, Sergio Meza		
Regrets:		
Recorder: Ernesto Rios		
Issue	Discussion	Outcome, Action, Accountability & Completion Date
Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, Approval of Minutes	Summary: Sergio called the meeting to order, conducted the Pledge of Allegiance, conducted roll call, approved minutes, and called for public comments.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sergio called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM. • Sergio asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance • Sergio performed the roll call. Council Members included Mike Wells, Ernesto Rios, and Sergio Duran, Sergio Meza and Marco Celedon. • The Council approved the meeting minutes for February 2009. 	
Public Comments	Summary: Community Member, Louie Corona, asked about changes to Hwy 111.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Member, Louie Corona, asked the Council why the signage at Hwy 111 had been changed to read Grapefruit Blvd at the Corner at Hwy 111 and Airport Blvd. • Leticia DeLara commented that the changes might be the result of CalTrans relinquishment of the street. 	
Staff Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheriff Dept. 	Summary: The Sheriff’s Dept. commented that auto thefts had gone down, but felonies in the area had risen in the past month. The Fire Dept. commented that there was not much activity in the previous month. Code Enforcement commented that there were 55 open	Accountability: The County would look into the light on Ave. 66, in front of the Mega School, a little more closely and determine if the light is truly needed.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code Enforcement • Animal Services • Transportation • Fire Dept. 	<p>cases of rubbish and inoperable vehicles in the community. Animal Services was not present. The Transportation Dept. was not present, but Leticia DeLara updated by commenting the County was looking into the light at Ave. 66.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheriff Department: representatives of the Sheriff Department commented that auto thefts were down in the community of Thermal, but that felonies had gone up in the previous month. It was also commented that the Sheriff Department has a new mobile phone technologies, which allow them to get immediate updates on crimes as they occur directly to their BlackBerry phones. He also commented that Moises Leon had been arrested for possessing a stolen car, but Mr. Leon didn't seem to know that he had purchased a stolen car, so the Police Department was working with him to further investigate the case. • Fire Department: Pete Blakemore commented that he had only received two calls to the station regarding fires in the past few days. <p>Sergio Duran asked Pete if he could inform the community regarding the dates or season in which community members could burn agricultural waste. Pete commented that you can burn agricultural waste all year long, but the community must make the Fire Department aware of the burnings so that they do not have to dispatch Fire Officials if someone should call in the fire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code Enforcement: Rusty commented that there were 55 cases of rubbish and inoperable vehicles in the community of Thermal. Rusty also commented that the County would be installing cameras at Hughs Ranch, which had a high rate of illegal dumping. • Animal Services: Not present. • Transportation Department: Not present, but Leticia DeLara commented that she had communicated with Mojahed about the street light at Ave. 66. Furthermore, she commented that Supervisor Wilson had identified funding for the light. Leticia also commented that County representatives had met with the school caretaker at Desert Mirage High School to discuss the light installation, and the caretaker commented that the light might not be needed. <p>Mr. Joe Ceja, Desert Mirage High School Principal, was present and also commented that the light might not be needed.</p>	

	<p>Mike Wells and Sergio Duran commented that it might be necessary to look at the light situation further, before deciding not to install it.</p> <p>Community Member, Louie Corona, commented that if the light was not installed it should be installed at the corner of Buchanan and Ave. 62.</p>	
<p>Committee Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Services District 	<p>Summary: The CSD was not present, so there were no reports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Services District (CSD): There were no reports from CSD. 	
<p>New Business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closure of Airport Blvd. • Thermal Chamber of Commerce • Supervisor Wilson Letter • Christ is Salvation Church 	<p>Summary: The closure of Airport Blvd. at Hwy 111 was approved by the Council. The Thermal Chamber of Commerce presented on an opportunity to increase college going for low income students in the communities of Thermal, Mecca and Oasis. Ernesto would have a draft letter prepared for the next Council meeting, requesting that the County support the Council against any future annexations of the region into the City of Coachella. Christ is Salvation Church presented its new design guidelines, requesting approval and a letter approving the project. The letter would be presented to the County Planning Commission to demonstrate the Council's approval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closure of Airport Blvd. for 5 Months: Marco Celedon commented that CalTrans and the County should move forward with the bridge at Airport, with the condition that safe alternate routes be created for residents of the Community of Thermal. Marco motioned to approve the closure of Airport Blvd. and Sergio Duran seconded the motion. The Council voted unanimously to approve the closure of Airport Blvd. • Thermal Chamber of Commerce: President Mike Castañeda commented that the Chamber had recently signed a partnership with the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership's—Pathways to Success Scholarship program to offer financial and student support services to college bound students in the communities of Thermal, Mecca and Oasis. Mike further commented that it was the goal of the Chamber to send students to college with the hope that they would return to their communities and contribute to the economic development of the region. He also commented that the Chamber was seeking assistance 	<p>Action: The Council approved unanimously the closure of Airport Blvd.</p> <p>The Christ is Salvation Church design guidelines were approved unanimously in favor of the new design.</p> <p>Accountability: The County would look into getting a Planning Commission representative to come speak with the Council regarding the development of two story homes in and around the Thermal Airport.</p> <p>Ernesto would draft a letter to Roy Wilson and get a draft copy to the Council for their approval.</p> <p>Ernesto would draft a letter of approval for Christ is Salvation Church's new building designs.</p>

from the community to raise the matching \$25,000 it was expecting to match with Pathways.

Marco Celedon commented that this was a great opportunity for students in the region and would like to learn more about how students can apply and get involved.

- **Letter to Supervisor Wilson:** Ernesto commented that he was still working on the letter to Supervisor Wilson and would have a draft made available for the Council to review at the next meeting.

Leticia DeLara commented that it would be important to be very specific as to why the Community of Thermal is opposed to any future annexations of the region into the City of Coachella. The more detailed the letter the better.

- **Christ is Salvation Church:** Pastor Ruben Martinez commented that he was presenting to the Council because his previous Church design had been denied, due to the fact that it was a two-story building that could potentially interfere with planes landing at the Thermal Airport. The new design of the building would be one-story and would need to be approved before he could move forward with the County.

The Council felt it was a little confusing to accept that the County would deny the two story church, when a new Sheriff's Station was going to be built next to the airport causing a larger safety issue than the Church building, which is in a further distance away. It was requested that perhaps Paul Clark could attend the next Council meeting to explain the design issues.

Leticia DeLara commented that Paul Clark is no longer working for the County, so another County representative would have to attend a future Council meeting to explain the Church design problems.

The Council unanimously approved the new design of the Christ is Salvation Church. Pastor Ruben requested a letter from the Council indicating approval, so that he could present it to the Planning Department at the next meeting.

Ernesto commented that he would draft the letter and get it to Pastor Ruben as soon as possible.

<p>Councilmember Reports & Correspondence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Airport Authority 	<p>Summary: Ernesto reported on the Airport Authority meeting and the interest in reducing the cost of the Jacqueline Cochran Airport Airshow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ernesto Rios commented that he had not been able to attend the Airport Authority meeting, but had sent someone to take notes for him. He updated the Council and community by commenting that the County was looking into ways of reducing the costs associated with holding the Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airshow in November. Ernesto further commented that the Airport Authority was trying to gauge the economic impact the Airshow has on the local economy and would be conducting an analysis of such impact. 	
<p>Next Scheduled Meeting</p>	<p>Summary: The next Thermal Community Council meeting was scheduled for April 27, 2009.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next Thermal Community Council meeting was scheduled for April 27, 2009 	<p>Action: Next meeting was scheduled for April 27, 2009.</p>
<p>Adjourn Meeting</p>	<p>Summary: The meeting was adjourned by Sergio Duran.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was adjourned by Sergio Duran at 7:23PM. 	<p>Action: The meeting was adjourned by Sergio Duran.</p>