

# Making the Sweetwater Valley the best place to live.

P.O. Box 232, Bonita, CA 91908 [www.sweetwatervalleyca.org](http://www.sweetwatervalleyca.org)



## SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 7, 2018

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by President Michael Seiler at the Bonita Library Community Room. He welcomed everyone to the meeting, and invited everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our Country followed by a moment of silence to honor the men and women of our Armed Forces, Law Enforcement, Fire and Safety Professionals

Directors Present: Michael Seiler, Tony Tieber, Judy Tieber, Steve Stonehouse, Sharon Coleman

Members Present: Glenn Kopp, Mark Kukuchek, Kathy Holdaway, Miguel and Lesley Fernandez, Alan and Fran Cornell, Eugene Cook, Mike Clowers, Sam Snyder, Dana and Nancy Cornell, Daryl Hern, Manuel Paul, Robin Leon, Karla Winter

Guests Present: Donna Hodge, Julio Garcia, San Diego County Sheriff's Dept., CHP Officer Pete Thepkulchon, County Supervisor Cox representative Victor Avina, Congress woman Susan Davis' representative Jessica Mier, Jonathan Salsman, Jim Groth, Alex Whinney, B. Rosedale, Bill Routhier, Teresa Martinez, Ping Wang, Teresa O'Toole, Shlomit Haim, Scott Lewis

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Jim Woodford moved, Tony Tieber 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the January 3, 2018 meeting minutes, no discussion, unanimous approval.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Steve Stonehouse presented the February 2018 Financial report.

Checking	\$1,571.12
Certificate of Deposit	\$3,453.05
Ending Balance	\$5,024.17

Report accepted as presented.

### **Law Enforcement Reports:**

CHP Officer Pete Thepkulchon reviewed citation activity/focus areas for January 2018. Focus areas continue to include San Miguel Rd, Winnetka, and Frisbee. Another officer is also doing duty in Bonita. A problem continues to be that San Miguel Road is not radar certified. The officer wants to do another traffic speed study on San Miguel Road. Discussion followed about traffic problems being very aggravating due to the narrow Proctor Valley, San Miguel and Conduit Roads coupled with homes being close to the roads. Even the wide part of San Miguel Rd. is getting more dangerous with drivers speeding and passing on the right. Some solution has to be found. Ideas included establishment of green spaces, bike lanes, traffic calming monuments, etc. We need additional CHP patrols during the evening.

SD County Sheriff Crime Prevention Specialist Julio Garcia reported Bonita area crimes including a motor vehicle theft, a petty theft/larceny, a residential burglary, theft from a building, and theft from a motor vehicle. He reminded us to never leave anything of value or perceived value in plain sight. He is available to meet with us to discuss residential security. His email is [julio.garcia@sdsheriff.org](mailto:julio.garcia@sdsheriff.org). The San Diego Sheriff Dept non-emergency number: (858) 565-5200. Mr. Garcia passed out the Sheriff's guide to Legal Marijuana in California. Judy will have it put on the SVCA website and will attach to minutes.

### **Elected Representative Reports:**

Congress woman Susan Davis' Office: Jessica Mier told us the Congress woman has been very busy working/dealing with budget issues including funds for community health centers, children's insurance, Dream Act, natural disaster relief, and Social Security and Medicare program protection. Jessica's email address is: [Jessica.Mier@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jessica.Mier@mail.house.gov). She encouraged us to communicate with her at any time. The Congress woman has made herself available to talk/answer questions about the new tax law, honor Martin Luther King Jr. Day through several community events, and push for significant investment in our country's aging infrastructure.

Supervisor Greg Cox Office: Victor Avina told us County Supervisor Gaspar would be presenting the State of the County on 2-27-18, 6 p.m. at Scripps Seaside Forum. The Board of Supervisors voted to end the Hepatitis A emergency. The portable rest rooms will be removed in the very near future, including the one located at the Western Staging Area. The large pothole at San Miguel Rd./El Rancho Grande should be fixed by now, and the speed limit sign fixed. Regarding Allen School Rd, the County will be measuring vehicular speed in order to recertify speed limit. Public Works is planning to do upgrades to traffic mediums along Corral Canyon Rd. As follow up to a previous discussion about the traffic lights at Briarwood and SR 54, County staff has made adjustments to allow for improved traffic flow.

Regarding the discussion and concern about the South American Palm Weevil, State of CA has a hotline we can call for information: 1-800-491-1899. State is taking the lead on this issue. Further discussion followed, and a gentleman attendee cleared up some issues regarding Palm weevils vs. shot hole borers. They are not the same.

### **New Business:**

We had a discussion regarding the number of dead and dying palm trees in our riverbed and in our neighborhoods. There is continuing concern about the amount of "fuel" available to feed firestorms such as the Lilac Fire in North County. We know from first-hand accounts of the fire that dead palm fronds catch fire quickly and spread quickly during a firestorm. While the County has instituted many safety reforms such as defensible space, fire sprinklers in homes, etc. we have nothing at a local level to address the issue of dead palm fronds. We have many untrimmed volunteer palms along our roads. Along the west side of Proctor Valley Rd. is a good example. Directly adjacent to the west is the Bonita Meadows open space which butts up directly to the Bonita Highlands subdivision. Santa Ana winds blow west so Bonita is in a direct path. Chief Isbell offered to look into the possibility of establishing an ordinance to address this issue. He will also liaison with the Chula Vista Fire Department.

Mike Clowers brought up the need for speed limit signs along Proctor Valley Road. At this time, there are no speed limit signs, just one advisory 25 MPH heading south into the blind curves.

## **Continuing Business:**

Chula Vista has not yet responded to our request for a written, signed communication regarding possible municipal golf course redevelopment plans.

President Seiler introduced Mr. Jonathan Salsman, the Chula Vista Public Works Civil Engineer in charge of the Willow Street bridge construction project. His telephone number: 619-397-6115. Email: [jsalsman@chulavistaca.gov](mailto:jsalsman@chulavistaca.gov). Mr. Salsman gave us a very informative presentation. Some highlights include the cost: \$16 million. Structure will be 5 ft higher than current bridge. The project time span: May 2017-April 2019.

Project has three stages:

- \*Build new north-bound lanes (completed)
- \*Demolish existing wooden bridge
- \*Build new south-bound lanes and adjust/resurface roadways leading to bridge from both the north and the south and intersection of Sweetwater Road and Willow.

This presentation will be on the SVCA website/Facebook page. The upcoming traffic transition onto new bridge is tentatively scheduled for the weekend of February 23<sup>rd</sup>, unless weather interferes. In addition to the bridge, we will have much better drainage with the construction of a 650 ft box culvert from Bonita Road to the riverbed. Discussion followed about the community hope that the dedicated right turn/yield transition from Sweetwater onto Sweetwater (by the Sweetwater Women's Club) would be rebuilt. The answer is "No". There will be a dedicated right turn lane at the intersection, but not the "Yield" transition lane.

Regarding the direct mailing idea discussed last month, President Seiler wants to put that on hold for the time being.

## **Community Forum:**

Fire—Chief Isbell reported 167 calls responded to in January, 186 calls in December (a record). Many calls were due to flu cases, but they also had 14 fires, six were residential. We were reminded to keep our properties cleaned up. The dry weather is creating year-round fire danger. We were also advised to adhere to pool safety rules 100% of the time. A child can quickly get into trouble, and we must always remain vigilant.

Bonita Alliance—Sam Snyder presented an update. The new Bonita focus group met on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018, and voted unanimously on the following: That the group of residents become a formal group; that the group will fall under the auspice of Sweetwater Valley Civic Association, that the group name will be Bonita Alliance; and that we will accept the free help, guidance and partnering of the Institute for Public Strategies.

The January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting served as Part 1 of 2 to "get off the ground" with unified goals and structuring. Community problems and assets were identified. Part 2 will complete the process of structuring the new group necessary to achieve coherence and longevity. At the next meeting, we will use the work completed to form categories and sub-committees to move into action. We will also begin the discussion on the CV Golf Course property. The next meeting will be held February 21 at 7 p.m. in the Bonita Library Community Room. Note: This is a date and location change necessary due to increased interest and involvement. Please email Lisa directly to become part of this effort. [LisaColetteArt@cox.net](mailto:LisaColetteArt@cox.net).

Traffic and Roads—Tony Tieber posted the County priority list for road improvements on our website. During discussion we added the following roads/sections to our priority list: Sweetwater Rd from Bonita Rd. to Quarry Rd. and Corral Canyon from Central to County Line.

Sweetwater Community Planning Group—Steve Stonehouse reported on a County idea to add diagonal parking on the north side of San Miguel Rd near Sunnyside Elementary School. That action was not approved based on community input. Several residents along San Miguel Rd. prefer some kind of traffic calming technique instead. Maybe green space, bike paths, etc. Mike Seiler reviewed the role of Sweetwater Community Planning Group as it related to County Planning and Development Service, the County Planning Commission, up to the Board of Supervisors.

Membership—Sharon Coleman: Ms. Coleman reported we have new members, and she does have application forms for any interested meeting attendees. Currently we have:

Individual members	24	Gold	14
Family	30	Silver	3
Organizations	7		

Annual membership cost is very reasonable at: \$15 Individual, \$25 Family, \$50 Organization, \$100 Silver, and \$250 for Gold.

Senior Volunteer Patrol—Jim Woodford reviewed the SVP responsibilities and 2017 statistics. He also had an information pamphlet which he passed out to all present. He announced the speed trailer is back in service.

January 2018 Sheriff Sr. Volunteer Activities:

Hours on Patrol	264	Number of Patrols	23
Number Miles Driven	1,150	Vacation Checks	45
YANA Visits	0	YANA calls	29
Citizen Assists	5	Traffic Control	0
Number of Volunteers	21		

Trails—Mark Kukuchek, Trails Rep for Bonita Horsemen, gave the following updates: Two recent trail clean-ups, sponsored by [I Love a Clean San Diego](#), were very successful. Approximately 100 people worked to clean up homeless encampment trash near the West Staging Area, and about 150 people worked at Morrison Pond area. The next scheduled clean up is April 21<sup>st</sup>, again sponsored by [I Love a Clean San Diego](#), at the end of Conduit near the creek. There are three homeless encampments in the riverbed that need to be cleaned up before we get any heavy rain. We can register at [I Love a Clean San Diego](#) website. Mark also mentioned an extensive list of Sweetwater Trail Issues and maintenance backlogs. Residents who are interested in helping address this backlog can contact Mark at [mcchek@cox.net](mailto:mcchek@cox.net). A copy of the Backlog is attached to minutes.

Mark also gave us an update on the proposed new bike park and the approved Community Garden. The County is currently looking for someone or organization to operate the garden. He thinks the garden will be located on 3 acres currently used by the Pinery. The Rice Canyon loop trail is still a work in progress; however, trail completion is expected in 2018.

**Round Table:**

Darryl Hern reminded us the Bonita Museum is open Wednesday-Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. The museum is currently featuring three locals: Jerry Gauss (Glarf creator); Fred Higgins, a pioneer farmer; and Audi Lawson, an artist and museum benefactor.

Bonitafest 2018 planning is getting underway with the first meeting on Feb 13, 6 p.m. at Sweetwater Community Church.

A San Miguel Rd resident brought up his community concerns about “out-of-control” speeding on San Miguel Road. Something has to be done about it. President Seiler asked Victor Avina to bring a County Engineer to our March meeting to have a good discussion about this issue. What can we do to find a long-term solution?

Another San Miguel Rd resident expressed grave concern about the unsafe condition of the San Miguel Rd school crossing. The school-crossing amber lights are embedded in the road. This makes it difficult to see because the crossing is on the crest of the hill. Drivers approaching at high speed can't/won't stop for pedestrians. She feels it is only safe to cross the road during school crossing times, never at night or weekends.

President Seiler adjourned meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Tieber  
Secretary, SVCA

Attachments: Guide to Legal Marijuana in California  
Trails Backlog

Next meeting: March 7, 2018

**Mission Statement:** The Sweetwater Valley Civic Association is the direct conduit to local County elected and appointed officials, law enforcement and emergency first responders to discuss and resolve issues directly related to our quality of life within the Sweetwater Valley communities.



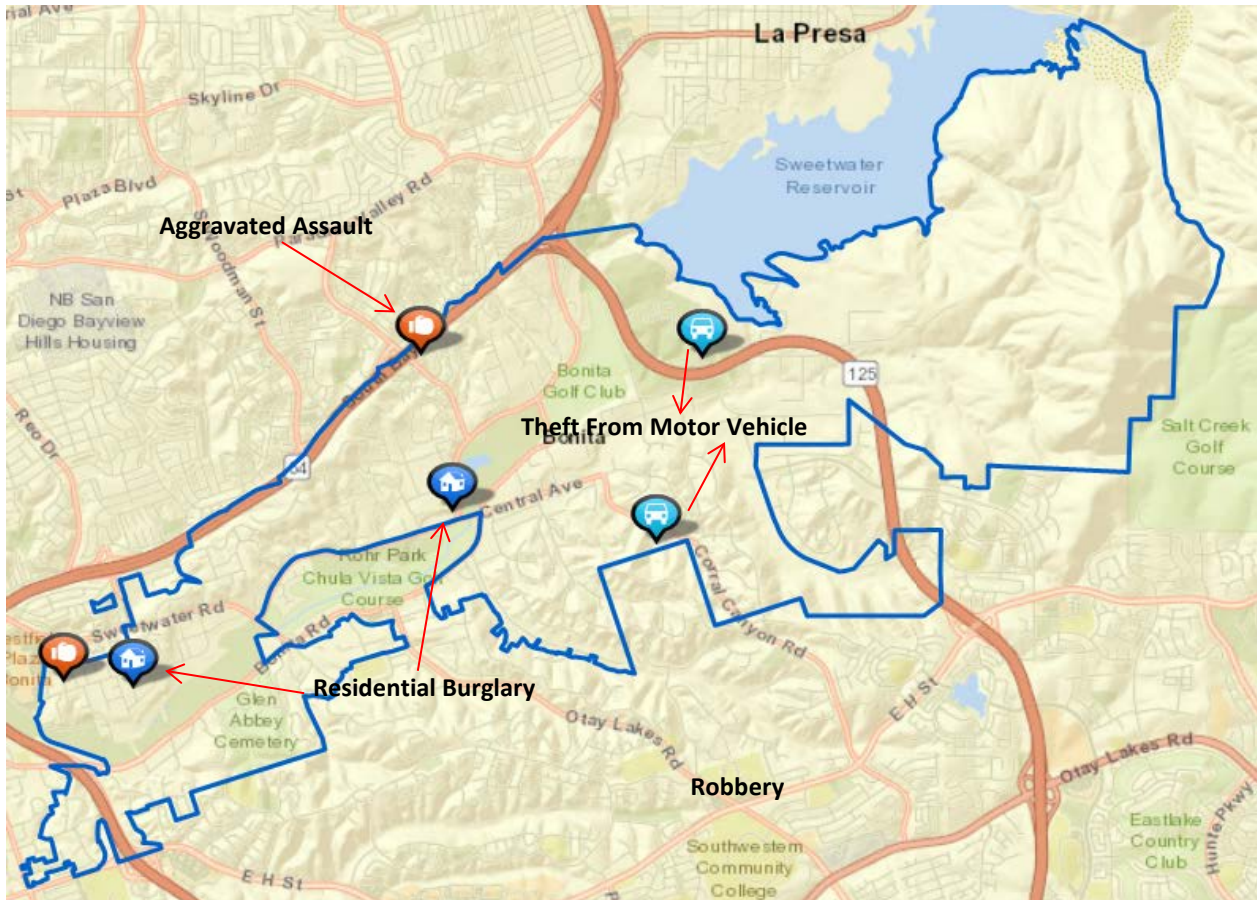


# San Diego County Sheriff's Department Imperial Beach Substation Crime Prevention Unit



## SVCA/BONITA/SUNNYSIDE MEETING

The following Bonita area crime reports were filed with the Imperial Beach Sheriff's Substation in the month of **February 2017**.



Data Source: Dashboard - Prepared By: Imperial Beach CPS, February 1, 2017

The Crime Prevention Specialist will conduct a free security inspection of your property at your request. The inspection takes about one hour, and involves an examination of the interior and exterior of the structure. Suggestions concerning appropriate security measures may be offered.

Neighborhood Watch has proven to be an effective program in reducing crime.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call (619) 498-2435.

**SDSD NON-EMERGENCY Telephone Number (858) 565-5200**

Sincerely,

*Julio R. Garcia,*  
Crime Prevention Specialist

## **Sweetwater Trail Issue Backlog**

1. Repair Erosion damage on inner trail under Bonita Road bridge.
2. Repair Erosion damage on North BGC loop trail just West of BGC driveway.
3. Cleanout waterway bars and repair erosion damage on switchback trail up to Red Hill.
4. Repair erosion damage on trail from Conduit Road up to Mary Augustine Bridge, clean out drain pipe under trail.
5. Add two sections of split rail fencing just West of Mary Augustine Bridge to close off illegal bypass trail.
6. Clean up tumbleweeds on South BGC trail directly behind Lucky Seven Ranch.
7. Repair erosion damage on trail from East end of San Miguel Road (by Fairy Shrimp Trail).
8. Add split rail fence to delineate ballpark parking from trail at upper trail from ball park to Summit.
9. Repair washout by trail bridge behind golf driving range on River Bottom Trail.
10. Clean out brow ditch culvert on trail on North side of Sunnyside Stock Farm.
11. Clear vegetation and chip stacked vegetation (from past cleanups) on North side trail on East side of BGC entrance.
12. Repair erosion damage at inner trail entrance to Stephie Rossi trail just West of Bonita Road Bridge.
13. Clear vegetation on East side of Central Avenue trail crossing over river at West end of Morrison's Pond.
14. Repair damaged fence post and reinstall step over to Ball Park trail at Conduit Road and Watercrest Street to preclude off road vehicle use.
15. Add step over bar at Conduit Road dead end gate to preclude off road vehicle use.
16. Install under trail drain pipe to stop trail erosion at Southern Trail under Bonita Road Bridge.
17. Add pea gravel to mud hole on BGC North trail next to Dave Phair Bridge.