



We Are Temescal Valley Newsletter

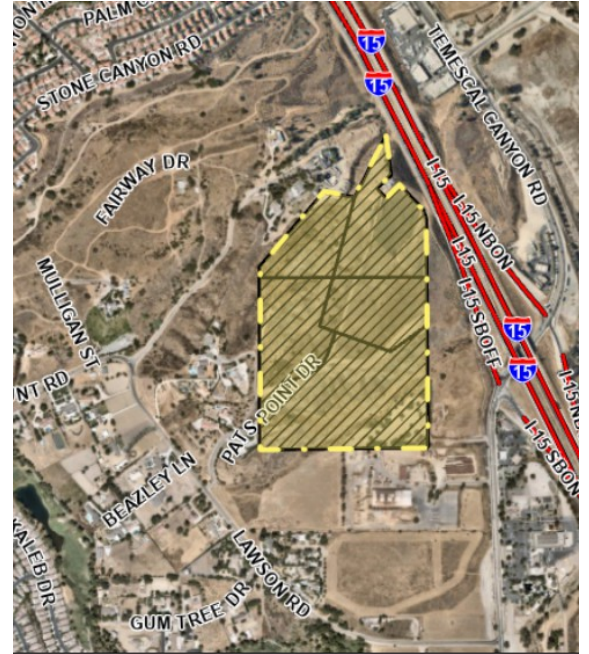
CNUSD PROJECT CLEARS NEXT STEP IN PROCESS

Since the last newsletter, the Corona Unified School District (CNUSD) held a General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) hearing in November 2024. This hearing reviewed a proposal to amend the General Plan for a 59.51-acre site. The proposed amendment would change the zoning from Rural Community - Estate Density Residential (RC-EDR) to Community Development - Medium High Density Residential (CD-MHDR) and Community Development - Public Facilities (CD-PF). This change would allow for the development of 50 single-family residences and an educational facility.

At the GPAC hearing, four members of the education committee (Jerry Sincich, Mary Witten, Fred Myers, and Tracy Davis) spoke in favor of the project, highlighting the need for the school and the benefits of the medium-density residential component. One resident expressed concerns about the housing component and the lack of water and sewer infrastructure. Fred Myers addressed this concern, stating that the Temescal Valley Water District is required to connect water and sewer lines upon full project approval. The GPAC voted 3-0 (with two members absent) to support the high school, the proposed density, and the overall concept.

The next step was a Planning Commission GPAC hearing on January 15, 2025. Jerry Sincich spoke in favor of the project. Planning Commissioner Marisa Gruytch (2nd District) expressed strong support, noting the community's desire for a high school and praising the innovative approach of incorporating medium-density housing to help fund the project. The Planning Commission approved the project 4-0 (with one member absent).

Earlier this month, the CNUSD education subcommittee met to discuss next steps. CNUSD is now awaiting a date for the Board of Supervisors (BOS) hearing for the General Plan Amendment (GPA). Simultaneously, CNUSD is preparing an application to the California Department of Education (CDE) for approval of the school site project, including the housing component. The district and its developer are hopeful that the CDE will approve this coordinated development. While progress is being made, the process is lengthy and it is estimated to take approximately one year before the



CNUSD Yee Property diagram and impacted space, courtesy of Corona-Norco Unified School District

SAVE THE DATE:

Temescal Valley Annual
Town Hall, April 9th:



Temescal Valley Faire:
Saturday, May 17th



DEVELOPMENT 101: A LESSON IN RIVCO PROCESS

While reading this hum in your head Schoolhouse Rock- 'I'm just a bill!' because I am...

On a basic step by step process the owner/developer files a form with the county planning department. Planning Staff makes sure all the boxes checked and information is added about the details of the project. This includes what type of form required, for example : Plot Plan Track map (PPT) Pre- Application Review (PAR) or a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). This step can take months to years depending on how complicated and motivated the owner/developer is.

First step is Planning Director's hearing, a meeting to view the project as a whole. It's held in County Administration Center and calendared twice a month. This hearing is meant to comb through the details and make changes to the project that don't meet the county standards. The project has been sent through all county departments for comments, for instance : fire, water, transportation, environmental, and etc. to make those updates.

During **every** hearing the developer is asked, "Have you reached out to the surrounding community?". Development must list the community meeting or meetings to which they attend. We have the Temescal Valley Municipal Advisory Council (TMAC), where we get a chance at streamlining a project to fit in the community. Also the Temescal Valley development committee sees the project at between changes. Every project we get minimally one meeting but more likely 2-3 at TMAC alone. The development committee has been organized the last 12 years, therefore has seen the latest projects one or more times. Projects that have community input and support have the easier route through the process. Plus projects bounce back and forth in these initial steps until the project is fine tuned to the community.

VIEW DISTRICT 2

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

You can view all current projects at: rivcodistrict2.org/planning-news

Next step is full Planning Commission. A hearing notice is given to all surrounding neighbors within 600 ft of project. The projects are mostly done at this step, unless there are large flags that need attention in the application. The planning commission hears the project, with video or slide presentation from the developer. The public comment are 3 minutes per person to state support or oppose on the project. The commissioners comments are given, with recommendations to the owner/developer for changes as appropriate. Vote of commission with recommendations added for next step to Board of Supervisors. If there are a large number of changes, the project can be sent back to staff for further review and updates.

The last step of a project goes before the Board of Supervisors (BOS). Notifications to the neighbors are given like the previous step. This should be the fully baked cake of a project... The BOS repeats the same steps as the planning commission in review of all the previous and public comment. The supervisors comments are given, with only small mitigation to the owner/developer for changes as appropriate. Rarely will the BOS oppose in whole the project, some times there are one or two supervisors in descent. The process is designed to fix the hiccups and change the project to meet the development and community standards, along the way.

During the cycle if the developer for any reason makes large changes, for instance, numbers of homes/buildings in the project OR sell the project to new owner, they go back to the earlier step and start over. That's why Terramor took 16 years before breaking ground and building. While the small, simple projects like Self and RV Storage can be completed in a year to 18 months. - Tracy Davis



Scan with your smart phone's camera.

E-BIKES: UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENT TYPES & RIDING RESPONSIBLY

By Joe Rosen



INFORMATION ON E-MOTORCYCLES

The City of Norco and the Norco Sheriff's Office have experienced an increase in the use of electric motorcycles on public roadways and horse trails throughout the city. Protecting the safety of residents and their animals is a top priority for the City of Norco and the Riverside County Sheriff's Office. The Norco Sheriff's Office has increased traffic enforcement and community outreach to educate the public on the physical differences and legal requirements for each bike type (chart below). Failure to abide by the California Vehicle Code may result in significant fines and vehicle towing. Residents are asked to be respectful of equestrians, pedestrians and motorists as they travel through the city.

MORE INFORMATION		BICYCLE	TYPE 1 E-BIKE	TYPE 2 E-BIKE	TYPE 3 E-BIKE	E-DIRT BIKE/ E-MOTORCYCLE*
BIKE	Pedal Activated	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO
	Maximum Motor Assisted Speed (MPH)	N/A	20	20	28	N/A
	License Plate/Registered with DMV	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
	Minimum Age	N/A	N/A	N/A	16	16
RIDER	Driver's License	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
	Helmet Required	UNDER 18	UNDER 18	UNDER 18	ALL AGES	ALL AGES
ACCESS	Park*	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO
	Sidewalk	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
	Street (Bike Lane)	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
	Trail**	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO

*Motorcycle manufacturers include but are not limited to: Suzuki, Razor, KTM, Talaria, Mototec, and GMAX Electric Dirtbikes. Per California Vehicle Code, any vehicle exceeding 750 watts is an e-motorcycle, not an e-bike.

RIVCO Sheriff classification of ebikes and other motorized vehicles

The term “e-bike” originated when innovators started bolting electric power conversions to traditional bicycles. Electricity from a battery feeds an electric motor to either propel, or help propel the bike forward. E-bikes can be “pedal-assist” (human legs must pedal the bike to initiate electric assist), full electric (the bike has a throttle and may or may not have pedals), or both.

Today, the term “e-bike” encompasses a vast array of two-wheeled vehicles that share little in common. Including significant differences in acceleration and maximum speed. The line between bicycle and motorcycle has become blurred by the rapid advance of e-bike technology.

E-bikes without pedals are not e-bikes at all. They are e-motorcycles. E-motorcycles (aka Zero-Emission Motorcycle or ZEM) are subject to the same laws as motorcycles. ZEMs not registered with the DMV as street-legal are illegal on the street. And on forest roads; like the roads found

California Vehicle Code (CVC) provides a legal definition for an e-bike. An “electric bicycle” is a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts. (Therefore, any e-bike with a motor exceeding 750 watts is an e-motorcycle).

Where the CVC definition and classifications become confusing is if the e-bike is equipped with a throttle. Having a throttle makes the e-bike more dangerous than a pedal-assist e-bike. A throttle allows the rider to sustain the e-bike’s maximum speed for as long as the battery maintains a charge.

The typical e-bike, pedal-assist or full electric, typically has a maximum electric-assisted speed of 20mph. That’s faster than most people think. Injury can occur falling over at a stop sign. At 20mph, a crash may result in life-altering injury or death.

Unfortunately, complaints about reckless e-bike riders have become all too common. E-bike riders are on sidewalks, in parking lots, outdoor malls, city parks, all sorts of places they shouldn’t be. Some don’t ride safely or respectfully. The biggest offenders are usually children and teens who either don’t know better or are too busy having fun to care.

If you’re a parent with kids eager to get on an e-bike, that e-bike should be limited to a Class 1 e-bike (per CVC - pedal-assist, 20mph max, any age) unless physical limitations require needing a throttle. Throttled e-bikes are more practical for disabled people or business use. If you’re an adult looking to get an e-bike, get advice from experts first. Then get an appropriate bike and safety gear.

All e-bikes accelerate and sustain higher speeds than regular bikes, so safety and responsibility need to be taken a lot more seriously. Appropriate riding gear should always be worn, especially a helmet. Motorcyclists say, “Dress for the slide, not the ride.” Good advice for bicycle riders as well, regardless how the bicycle is powered.

Let’s work harder to teach our kids and ourselves to enjoy riding e-bikes and ZEMs more safely, 3



Deceased monarch butterflies at the Pacific Grove Monarch Sanctuary

MONARCH BUTTERFLY NUMBERS PLUMMET, BUT HOPE REMAINS

The Xerces Society released its Western Monarch Count results for 2024, revealing a concerning decline in overwintering monarch butterflies. With only 9,119 butterflies counted, this marks the second-lowest number ever recorded since monitoring began in 1997. This stark drop follows a period of increased numbers from 2021-2023, which had risen to over 200,000, although still far below the millions observed in the 1980s.

This year's count is only slightly better than the all-time low of fewer than 2,000 monarchs in 2020. While the previous years offered a glimmer of hope, this recent decline is a serious setback. Scientists consider a population of millions to be a stable level, highlighting the long road to recovery for these vital pollinators.

Monarchs face numerous threats, including habitat loss, pesticide use, and increasingly severe weather patterns exacerbated by climate change. The recent proposal to list monarchs under the U.S. Endangered Species Act offers hope for increased protection and recovery efforts. The Xerces Society, along with community scientists and volunteers, remains committed to protecting monarchs and other pollinators.

Monarchs typically return from their overwintering sites in mid-March, coinciding with warmer weather and the growth of native milkweed, which serves as crucial caterpillar food. Despite the disappointing count, the Xerces Society remains optimistic about the resilience of the monarch population and believes that with continued effort, their numbers can rebound. - Tracy Davis

HOW YOU CAN HELP IN TV

Little changes locally can help make a big impact for our winged friends

- Plant native milkweed: This is essential for monarch caterpillars. Be aware that the caterpillars will eat the milkweed.
- Plant nectar-rich flowers: Choose clustered or composite flowers (like daisies) that provide ample landing space for adult monarchs to feed.
- Prepare milkweed seeds: Chill native milkweed seeds in the refrigerator for 30 days before planting to increase germination rates by 30-50%. Direct seed or start seeds indoors for transplanting. Gallon-sized native milkweed plants will be available around April at Quality Growers Inc. in El Cerrito. Check with the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District (RCRCD) in Riverside for their native plant sales.
- Reduce or eliminate pesticide use: Opt for the least toxic and most targeted methods. For example, use ant bait stations instead of spraying. A recent incident at the Pacific Grove Monarch Sanctuary, where ten percent of the overwintering population died, highlighted the devastating effects of pesticide exposure. Analysis by the USGS found multiple pesticides, fungicides, and herbicides, including highly toxic pyrethroids, in the deceased butterflies. Even organic pesticides can be harmful to insects!

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR COMMUNITY HERO AWARD FOR 2025

Nominations are now being accepted for the Community Hero Award, which the Corona-Norco Branch of Assistance League of Riverside gives annually to an individual who has “gone above and beyond expectations” to help children and/or youth in the area covered by the Corona-Norco Unified School District, including the Temescal Valley.

The third annual Community Hero Award will be presented during the Branch’s Denim & Diamonds fundraising dinner on Saturday, May 3, at the Pacific Crest Lodge in Trilogy at Glen Ivy.

Nominations for the award are being solicited from local organizations and individuals. The nomination form can be downloaded from our website ([Community Hero Award - Assistance League - Riverside Assistance League - Riverside](#)). Or email cbranch@alriverside.org with information about your nominee and your contact information.

The Community Hero Award is intended to recognize those who quietly help our local children and to inform the community of the work that is being done.

The award evolved after Branch members observed the time and effort spent by a local teacher working with us on our Students Overjoyed About Reading (SOAR) program to help children improve their reading skills. That teacher, Heather Regus at Todd Elementary School, spent hours in addition to her regular classroom responsibilities to help Branch members tutor students. Few people saw how much she was doing and how much she cared, but our Branch members felt she deserved recognition. So, she was the first recipient of our Community Hero Award in 2023.

The 2024 recipient of the Community Hero Award was Corona Police Officer Alex Plasencia. Officer Plasencia, a school resource officer at Corona High School, is a primary organizer of the Corona Police Department’s “Kids and Cops Holiday



2024 Recipient of the Community Hero Award Corona Police Officer Alex Plasencia.

MISSION CLAY PROJECT HEARING SCHEDULED



Currently proposed site plan, courtesy of Riverside County Planning

A public hearing is scheduled for the Mission Clay project on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 9:00 AM at the Riverside County Administration Center - Board Chambers, 1st floor, Conference Room 2A, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, CA 92501. The project proposes significant changes to the zoning and land use of a 12.7-acre site north of Lookout Lane, east of Lawson Rd, south of Pats Point Drive, and west of Temescal Canyon Road.

The project seeks to amend the General Plan Foundation Component from Rural Community (RC) to Community Development (CD) and the Land Use Designation from Estate Density Residential (EDR) to High Density Residential (HDR). Specifically, the applicant requests a zone change from R-A-2.5 (Rural Residential with 2.5-acre lots) to R-7 (High Density Residential).

The proposed CD-HDR designation would allow for single-family attached and detached residences, including townhouses, stacked flats, courtyard homes, patio homes, and zero lot line homes, with a density range of 8-14 dwelling units per acre. The developer has presented plans for a 350-unit multifamily complex with 2-4 story buildings, including two-story townhomes adjacent to Lawson Road to address community concerns. Proposed amenities include a clubhouse, fitness facility, mail room, bike storage, and leasing office, along with 545 parking spaces (standard, compact, garages, and carports), some with EV charging capabilities.

The project will include the construction of Street A and cul-de-sac Street B, designed to accommodate existing approved industrial projects. Street B will provide access to the CNUSD property to the north (pending an easement agreement). Street A will include traffic calming measures (islands and medians) to discourage truck traffic from the industrial park onto Lawson Road.

The General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) reviewed the project at their November hearing. The Planning Director clarified that GPAC's role was solely to consider the zoning change, not the specific project details. While project details are informative, they do not directly influence the zoning recommendation. The GPAC vote was two against, one neutral, and two absent, citing concerns about the increased housing density. A video of the GPAC discussion is available online (starting at approximately the 45-50 minute mark): https://riversidecountyca.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_Meeting.aspx?ID=3002

The public is encouraged to provide comments on the project, either in writing before the meeting or in person at the hearing. Written comments should be sent to:

Riverside County Planning Department, Attn: Jordan Leffew (jleffew@rivco.org), P.O. Box 1409, Riverside, CA 92502-1409

While the agenda and supporting documents are typically available 72 hours prior to the meeting, they were not available at the time of this newsletter. It is important to note that the General Plan Advisory Committee may amend the proposed project based on public input. Therefore, changes to designations, development standards, design, or improvements are possible. - TD

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ON MARCH 22ND FOR POLLINATOR HABITATS PLANTING



Volunteer Event
at the
Colladay Pollinator Habitat
March 22, 2025 • 9:30 a.m.

Let's make Temescal Valley a Monarch haven!
Volunteers are needed to help with planting a new pollinator garden at the Colladay Water Tank site. All plants are native to Southern California and grown from locally sourced seeds. Help create healthy pollinator foraging and breeding habitat. Work will involve kneeling, bending and stooping.

Things to bring:

- Water
- Hat
- Gloves
- Sunscreen
- Sturdy shoes
- Tools such as shovels, and hand trowels
- Kneeling pad (recommended)

To register:
email Tracy Davis
tracycto@yahoo.com
Please register by the by 3 p.m. the prior day.

Volunteers will need to park along the street near the intersection of Clay Canyon Drive and Crest View Drive.

Event will be held rain or shine

Western Monarch caterpillar on a native narrowleaf milkweed plant, *Asclepias fascicularis*

Make a difference for local ecosystems, including Monarch butterflies, by joining us for a planting day at the Temescal Valley Water District's Colladay Reservoir (the "water tank"). After a year of preparation, the site is ready for its new plants!

The Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District (RCRCD) and TVWD have partnered for this important project, a connection rooted in the decades of service Charlie Colliday dedicated to both organizations. The RCRCD cultivated the plants from seeds gathered at protected sites right here in Temescal Valley.

We need your help! We're looking for at least 30 volunteers to plant nearly 480 plants across the one-acre site. Scout Troop 34B from Montecito Ranch will also be assisting with a side project: building deer guards to protect the new plantings.

To volunteer, please email me at tracycto@yahoo.com TODAY! Let me know how many people you'll be bringing and which community you live in.

Meeting Schedule

<p>Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District 4:00 PM, February 27th, March 27th, April 24th District Headquarters: 31315 Chaney Street, Lake Elsinore</p>	<p>Lake Elsinore Unified School District 6:00 PM, Second Thursday of the month 545 Chaney Street, Lake Elsinore</p>
<p>Temescal Valley Water District 8:30 AM, Tuesday, February 25 District Office:</p>	<p>Corona-Norco Unified School District 7:00 PM, Tuesday, February 24</p>