



Supervisor Jeffries' Board Report

January 29, 2019

While the last meeting nearly set a record for how fast it went, this week's meeting was a lengthy one. Items I felt were of particular importance to the First District or County-wide include:

Virulent Newcastle Disease Update—Video time stamp: 1:26:30 We had a presentation from California's State Veterinarian, Dr. Annette Jones, from the Department of Food and Agriculture on "Virulent Newcastle Disease", a fast-spreading and deadly virus that is killing chickens all over Riverside County and some other places in Southern California. It has spread from backyard flocks into some commercial facilities, and unfortunately, once your space is infected, every chicken must be euthanized—over 75,000 backyard chickens have already been killed under this program. CDFA employees are going door to door in areas that are now quarantined (Mead Valley, Ramona, and Jurupa Valley, among others) and taking people's birds for testing and disposal to stop the spread of this disease that could threaten the state's entire poultry industry. You can find more information on this disease here:

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/Newcastle_Disease_Info.html

Riverside County Fair/Date Festival—Video time stamp: 1:44:10. A presentation of the "Queen Scheherazade Court", in advance of the Riverside County Fair/Date Festival, running from February 15-24th in Indio. For more information see: <http://www.datefest.org/>

Legalization of Industrial Hemp???—Item 2.15, video time stamp 1:59:20. Riverside County had previously passed a moratorium on the cultivation of industrial hemp, but recent changes to state and federal law will have the effect of legalizing it essentially everywhere. While we are working very hard to craft an ordinance for cannabis related businesses that will protect residential neighborhoods, it is very possible that we will be limited in how we can restrict hemp to non-residential areas, which could have an impact. In a short discussion, county staff was asked to report back to the Board with options for how these impacts on the community might be mitigated under state and federal law.

Road Improvements—Item 3.31 \$4.675 million contract for slurry sealing roads and improving ADA curb ramps on roads throughout Western Riverside County, including 4 pages of roads and 36 ramps in the 1st District. Passed without discussion.

Cannabis Business Licensing and Developer Agreements—Item 3.52, Video Time Stamp 2:10:30. This was definitely the biggest issue of the day, with a lengthy staff presentation, multiple members of the public making comments, and a vigorous discussion among the Board about how best to proceed with the application and approval process for cannabis related businesses in unincorporated areas of the county. Staff presented a proposal to have prospective applicants submit RFPs to the Planning Department, where their proposals would be scored on a variety of criteria (neighborhood fit, security plans, traffic plans, community benefits, etc), and the top 50 cultivation applications and 19 retail applications would be selected to go through the official planning process (these chosen applicants will NOT be guaranteed approval of their actual projects). Instead of a tax, these licensees will sign developer agreements, including two sets of fees, half of which would go to pay for enforcement of both the legal and illegal cannabis businesses in this county, and half of which would be a negotiated benefit to the actual community in which the business is located. A lot of time was spent discussing whether the Developer Agreement was preferable to doing a county-wide tax measure, whether the community benefit fee was too high, what programs might be established to help smaller businesses succeed in the process (including a “social equity component”), and whether permissible zones should be expanded to include some more residential areas. In the end, the Planning Department’s recommendations were approved as written on a 4-1 vote (Supervisor Hewitt opposed), with a request that we continue to work on making the program accessible to lower income or small businesses, and that we await official options from the Planning Department in the Spring to discuss whether we include more areas of the county within the ordinance. For more information about the Developer Agreements and the schedule to begin accepting proposals the Form 11 here and Attachment F have the most information about the program:

http://riversidecountyca.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_LegiFile.aspx?Frame=&MeetingID=2029&MediaPosition=7826.878&ID=8884&CssClass=

Toscana Village Shopping Center—Item 21.1, Video Time Stamp 3:56:00. Toscana Village is a shopping/office center proposal in Temescal Valley on 10.5 acres of land between Temescal Canyon Road and the I-15, just north of Indian Truck Trail. There were some local residents who expressed concerns about aspects of the project, but feedback from the community at large has been mostly positive over the past year as the project has made its way through the process, and after a discussion about traffic issues and some other concerns about landscaping, the project was approved unanimously by the Board.

You can see all the agenda items and staff reports, and watch the video of the meeting at this link here:

<http://riversidecountyca.iqm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2029&Format=Minutes>

Our next Board Meeting is February 5th.