

Highgrove Municipal Advisory Council Meeting Minutes Draft

March 25, 2026 - 6:15 p.m.

Highgrove Library,

530 W. Center Street, Highgrove, CA 92507

0.0 Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

1.0 Roll Call

Present: Susan Meeks

Absent: Anna J. Gallegos (Chair), Rosie Middleton (Vice Chair), Cynthia Cruz (Secretary), Jeff Girod, and Nicholas Hinojosa

2.0 Approval of Minutes

The January 28, 2026, meeting minutes were not approved due to lack of quorum.

3.0 Update from the Office of Supervisor Jose Medina: Araceli Ruiz, Senior Legislative Assistant, shared the following updates:

- The County of Riverside First District Budget Community Workshop for Fiscal Year 2026–2027 will be held on April 8, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the Riverside County Administration Center. Community members are encouraged to attend and share budget priorities.
- Highgrove Elementary PTA received a \$7,000 Community Improvement Designation Grant from Supervisor Medina’s office to support student engagement programs.
- District 1 Office Hours will be held at the Highgrove Library on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Residents may meet with Araceli Ruiz regarding County services and community concerns.

4.0 Community Updates

- Senator Sabrina Cervantes’ Office:
Carolina Cardenas shared the following updates:
 - Yolanda Esquivel was named the 2026 Woman of the Year for the 31st Senate District.
 - The Day of the Child celebration will be held on April 25th, at the Perris Community Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 - A Proposition 4 Climate Bond Webinar is scheduled for April 8, 2026, the details are on the website.
 - A Mobile Home Workshop is scheduled for May 16, 2026, at the Perris Community center.
- Assemblymember Leticia Castillo’s Office:
Toni Rosales provided the following update:
 - The Assembly’s Spring Recess will take place from March 27 – April 5, 2026. District Office meetings are available during that time.
 - Collette Lee was named the 2026 Woman of the Year for Assembly District 58.
 - Assemblymember Castillo introduced (AB1382) legislation related to government ethics and notary service fee adjustments.
- **County of Riverside Departments:**
 - Code Enforcement: Jamison Cole, Code Enforcement Supervisor, reported:
 - There are currently 114 open Code Enforcement cases in Highgrove.

- Enforcement efforts continue at the recycling operation at Iowa and Center Street.
 - Code Enforcement is working on providing services and relocating the individuals of the homeless encampments and clean up the site, on the corner of Iowa and Spring St.
 - The County is working with Sunkist Ridge development to address water runoff and mosquito concerns.
- TLMA & Planning: John Hildebrant, Planning Director, shared:
 - The proposed Greystar housing project on Grand Avenue has not been approved.
 - The property at Iowa Avenue and Center Street currently occupied by the recycling operation is for sale and may provide future redevelopment opportunities.
 - Michael Maldonado, Transportation Administrative Services Manager reported:
 - Transportation crews are removing weeds throughout the community following recent rains.
 - The County is reviewing additional speed limit signage and community branding improvements near Spring Mountain Rand and Pigeon Pass.
- Voter of Registration Department: The Registrar of Voters Department was not in attendance.
 - Riverside Shariff Department: The Riverside County Sheriff's Department was not in attendance.
 - Community and Housing Development: Juan Garcia, Deputy Director, provided information on housing assistance programs, including:
 - Down Payment Assistanes Programs offering up to \$100,000 for eligible homebuyers.
 - Home Repair Assistance Programs offering up to \$50,000 for eligible homeowners, including mobile homes.

5.0 New Business

Highgrove Community Improvement Project Survey Results and Update

Supervisor Jose Medina reviewed the Highgrove Community Improvement Project survey results and announced several projects approved for funding.

Projects include:

- A Highgrove Community Investment Plan focused on attracting grocery stores and neighborhood-serving businesses, improving landscaping and streetscape enhancements, and supporting future economic development opportunities.
- Funding for annual maintenance of community landscaping improvements.
- A railroad quiet zone feasibility study for the Main Street, Center Street, and Villa Street railroad crossings to evaluate opportunities to reduce train horn noise in Highgrove.

Supervisor Medina also shared that a proposed community splash pad project will not move forward at this time due to estimated project costs.

Highgrove Beautification Program

Stephanie Bell, Director of Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful, announced a new partnership with Supervisor Medina's office to organize community cleanup events in Highgrove.

The "Keep Highgrove Clean and Beautiful" cleanup events are scheduled for June 13 and June 20, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Registration information will be shared with the community prior to the events.

6.0 Public Comments

Representatives from DonkeyLand spoke about recent attacks on wild burros in the Moreno Valley and Highgrove areas. Community members were encouraged to support efforts to protect the animals and assist with information related to the incidents.

7.0 Highgrove MAC Board Member Comments

Board Member Susan Meeks shared information regarding a recent meeting with Supervisor Jose Medina attended by MAC Board Member Jeff Girod and community member Barney Barnett. The discussion focused on the community's interest in attracting a grocery store and additional services to Highgrove.

Mr. Barnett also shared a short presentation titled "140 Years of Highgrove," highlighting the history and growth of the community.

8.0 Future Agenda Items

Future agenda items included:

- Land use and future development opportunities in Highgrove.
- AT&T cell towers updates

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 27, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., at the Highgrove Library.