



County of Monterey

SUPERVISORS SNAPSHOT

A Summary of Your Local Government Action

September 2024

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- **DISTRICT 1**
Luis Alejo
- **DISTRICT 2**
Glenn Church
- **DISTRICT 3**
Chris Lopez
- **DISTRICT 4**
Wendy Askew
- **DISTRICT 5**
Mary Adams

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

9/24 Board of Supervisors meeting

10/1 Board of Supervisors meeting

10/8 Board of Supervisors meeting

10/15 Board of Supervisors meeting

10/24 Board of Supervisors meeting

Public Comment starts at 10:30 am
168 W. Alisal St.
Board Chambers

SUPERVISORS SNAPSHOT INAUGURAL ISSUE:

A Message From Glenn Church Chair Supervisor - District 2

I wish to welcome everyone to the inaugural issue of Supervisor Snapshot. Government, at all levels, often does a poor job at communicating to the public. Monterey County is on a path to do a better job at that essential, but often neglected role. In a democracy, government belongs to the people, and the people need to easily find information on how their government works. Supervisor Snapshot is one of the many new efforts to improve communication between county government and the public. The need to do so has never been greater.



Just a few years ago, newspapers were a reliable source of news on all levels of local government. It wasn't just Board of Supervisors and city council meetings that were reported, but so were the proceedings of school boards, special districts and even appointed bodies like planning commissions. Anyone who was engaged in community affairs read a newspaper, saw the news on TV, and had access to information about important meetings. It was an easy way for anyone to digest what local government was doing. Just as important, everyone received almost the same perspective from relatively fair and unbiased reporting.

That was a time when newspapers were found in almost every community. They existed on the Peninsula with the Monterey Herald and Carmel Pine Cone, in Salinas with The Californian, and down the Valley with the Casey newspapers. The Watsonville Register-Pajaronian covered a considerable amount of North

County news. The Monterey County Weekly (originally Coast Weekly), largely based on the Peninsula, carried county news. Just a few years further back in the 1990s and earlier, North County had its own newspaper, as did Seaside, Marina, Castroville and other communities.

Today, we are left with the print media as a shadow of itself. There is a void, a news desert that is being filled by social media – Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter) and Nextdoor have filled that gap. Unfortunately, the information is often unreliable, if not outright false.

Simply put, democracy can't survive in a vacuum of information. People who are not informed cannot cast informed votes or even follow the intricacies of political debate. That governance has become more complicated, with laws that are often obtuse and solutions unclear, has made political participation increasingly difficult. The less people are engaged, the more empowered special interests become to influence policy and exert influence.

Supervisors Snapshot is an attempt to bridge the information gap that has grown over the last couple of decades between county government and the public. It will take more than this to fully fill that gap, but it is one step in many that are now needed.



District 2 Supervisor
Board of Supervisors, Chair



Supervisor Church's Upcoming Town Halls:

- **September 18 – Castroville**
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
North County Recreation Center – 11261 Crane Street, Castroville, CA 95012
- **October 24 – Aromas**
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Aromas Grange Hall – 361 Rose Avenue, Aromas, CA 95004
- **December 4 – Prunedale/Royal Oaks/Elkhorn**
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Prunedale Grange Hall – 17890 Moro Road, Prunedale, CA 93907

DISTRICT 2**The Future of Monterey County's Roads**

The persistent issue with our roads is their poor condition. With 1,257 miles of roads in Monterey County and decades of neglect, a study a few years ago estimated the cost to bring them to fair condition at \$700 million, likely much higher now. Historically, road maintenance budgets were cut during financial hardships and rarely restored.

The Transient Occupancy Tax, mainly paid by visitors, traditionally allocated 25% to the road fund. Last year, this percentage was nearly halved, but with support from colleagues, it has been restored to 25%, increasing funding for road repairs.

Recent improvements include Public Works purchasing new hot mix asphalt trucks, which provide longer-lasting repairs compared to cold mix asphalt. A plan is now in place to achieve fair road conditions by the mid-2030s. Although this timeline reflects the cost of past neglect, the current Board of Supervisors aims to prevent such neglect in the future.

DISTRICT 2**Enhancing Fire Prevention**

Monterey County faces high wildfire risks due to its forests, grasslands, dry summers, and high inland temperatures. Preventive measures are crucial, including creating defensible spaces around buildings and removing fuel buildup.



With support from State Senator John Laird, the County received \$1 million for a pilot program to remove highly flammable eucalyptus trees within 100 feet of homes. Eucalyptus, an imported species from Australia, poses a significant fire hazard due to its oils and peeling bark, which easily catch fire and spread embers.

The program reimburses property owners for 50% of removal costs. If successful, there are hopes to secure more funds to expand it countywide, providing broader protection for vulnerable homes.

DISTRICT 3

Rebuilding Old Stage Road: New Hot Patch Truck to Boost Repairs



Over the next two to three years, Old Stage Road will undergo crucial repairs, addressing long-needed improvements. While many roads in the County also require attention, the good news includes the addition of a new hot patch truck dedicated to the Third District. This heavy equipment uses Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA), a more durable and long-lasting material compared to current methods. We are making progress and will continue to push for more funding for essential road investments.

To report road or bridge issues, call (831) 755-4925 (Mon-Fri., 7:30am to 4:00pm) or (831) 755-4800 (Mon-Fri., 8:00am to 5:00pm), or email 300-servicerequest@co.monterey.ca.us. Include your name, address, and phone number for further contact.



A Hero Among Us

The County of Monterey Board of Supervisors, Sheriff's Office, Parks Division, and County Administrative Office honored 13 y/o Lazaro Perez for saving a child's life at Lake Nacimiento in August. Photo taken on September 10, 2024 during the Board meeting.

**DISTRICT 3****Supervisor Lopez Advocates in D.C. for Enhanced Farm Bill Funding**

In May, Supervisor Chris Lopez spent a few days in our nation's capital advocating for California ahead of the Farm Bill markup. The bill includes items we would expect, such as crop insurance and specialty crop assistance. But did you know it also funds the Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program? It even covers USDA's Rural Development funding and regulations. Additionally, rural broadband funding is part of this legislation. Supervisor Lopez is working hard to elevate the population caps, allowing more California counties to access critical program funding.

DISTRICT 3**Federal Investments for South County**

Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren spent the day with Supervisor Lopez and South County residents. They had a great conversation with residents in San Lucas about their water issues and possible solutions. The Congresswoman announced she had brought about one million dollars of Federal investment to the solutions fund. We also met with the City of King and their leadership to announce \$600,000 in investments in electric vehicle parking infrastructure and funding for the Family Justice Center in King City.

**South Monterey County Vacancies**

The quality of life in Monterey County is greatly enhanced by numerous citizens volunteering their time and energy to help the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors shape policies for current and future generations. We have several vacancies on boards, committees, commissions, and special districts where you can be appointed to represent southern Monterey County. Click here to find additional information:

<https://apps.co.monterey.ca.us/bccsite>



District 3 Listening Sessions:

San Ardo Listening Session, September 26th, 2024 at 5:30 pm at San Ardo Union Elementary School

Spreckels Listening Session, October 3rd, 2024 at 5:30 pm at the Veterans Memorial Building

King City Listening Session, October 9th, 2024 at 5:30 pm at the King City Library

Gonzales Listening Session, October 23rd, 2024 at 5:30 pm at the Gonzales City Council Chambers

DISTRICT 3 **Bracero Memorial**



Preserving the memories of laborers who came to this Valley with hopes and dreams and had their lives cut short by tragedy has been a passion of Supervisor Lopez. 32 Braceros lost their lives when the bus they were traveling in was hit by a train.

The story lived on in local memories, but no memorial was ever erected until Juan Martinez did his best to create a marker. Juan's time was cut short by cancer but the effort he started will be preserved. This steel cross now sits at Broome and Foletta Road's intersection. Not far from here is where the tragic accident occurred. We honor the labor who made our country great, and we continue to honor the men and women who allow this Valley to feed and nourish the Country we love and the world who depends on us.



The District 4 Office will host their last **Wednesdays with Wendy** of 2024.

October 2nd
5:30 pm to 6:30 pm
via Zoom.

The topic is **Mental Health Programs and Services** offered by the County. Speakers from the Family Services Agency, Behavioral Health, Rainbow Connections Project and others will be on hand.

Ways to Join:

-Facebook Live:
@SupervisorAskew
-Zoom: [Visit their social media accounts for zoom details.](#)

DISTRICT 4

The MST SURF!



Busway and Bus Rapid Transit Project is a generational investment in high quality public transit that will improve access for all residents. It will increase equitable access to our coast and is a critical step

in planning for future rail service. It will help us address our jobs-housing imbalance by providing high quality transit that reduces commute times. It will ensure zero-emission buses are traversing our coast, making it climate-friendly. It will improve our collective quality of life.

For all these reasons (and more), as the County Supervisor representing the multitude of jurisdictions that the SURF! Bus Rapid transit project will pass through, I unequivocally support of this project.



For more information visit:
<https://mst.org/about-mst/planning-development/surf/>

DISTRICT 4

Supreme Court decision on the Grant's Pass

An Op-Ed by Wendy Root Asker



The recent Supreme Court decision on the Grant's Pass case underscores a troubling approach to addressing homelessness that fails to confront the core issue: the severe shortage of affordable housing.

This crisis is largely driven by the unaffordability of housing, as evidenced by the median monthly income of \$960 for those just before they became homeless—far too little to secure stable housing. Effective solutions to homelessness are well-documented.

They involve providing access to affordable housing and comprehensive services that address physical, mental, and social health needs. Programs that integrate housing with supportive services have proven successful in helping individuals achieve stability and avoid the cycle of homelessness.

I call upon our community leaders to reject the notion that this decision gives license to criminalize and further traumatize unhoused people. Instead, we must prioritize data-informed, compassionate, and collaborative strategies that focus on providing affordable housing and essential services.



Supervisor Adams Upcoming Calendar

Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) Annual Meeting on Wednesday, September 18th and Thursday, September 19th

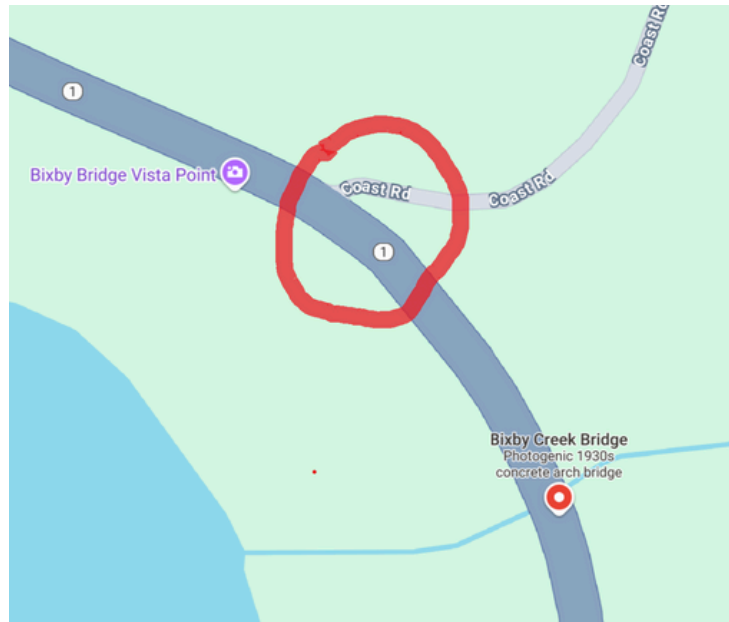
See Monterey Annual Meeting on Wednesday, September 18th

Local Agency Formation Council (LAFCO) meeting at 3:00pm on Monday, September 23rd

Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) meeting at 9:00am on Wednesday, September 25th

DISTRICT 5

Highway 1 Safety Notice



In order to improve the traffic safety along the Pacific Coast Highway (HWY 1), The County of Monterey in partnership with Caltrans and the California Highway Patrol, has order a parking prohibition on Coast Road. The enforcement began on Friday, September 13, 2024 and will remain in effect until further notice. Visitors to that portion of the scenic highway are asked to only stop in designated areas along HWY 1.



DISTRICT 5**Vacation Rental Ordinance**

After eight years of persistence, the Board of Supervisors has updated the Vacation Rental Ordinance, regulating short-term rentals like Airbnb and VRBO. The revised ordinance balances community concerns with economic benefits and was reviewed by both the Planning Commission and the Board. It defines three types of vacation rentals—Commercial, Limited, and Homestays—and establishes clear rules, such as requiring permits and licenses, especially for Commercial Vacation Rentals, which are now prohibited in areas like Big Sur and Carmel Valley. My goal has been to preserve neighborhood character, encourage long-term rentals, and ensure short-term rentals follow strict guidelines. I believe this updated ordinance will achieve that.

After hundreds of hours of public comment, staff time, meetings, and more, it reflects a compromise that addresses income opportunities while protecting residential housing. I look forward to working on an amendment that will further protect areas such as Del Monte Forest and the Carmel area by looking at expanding the prohibition of Commercial Short-Term Rentals in these areas as well. However, I am proud of the staff's work on this critical set of ordinances that will allow us to move forward on enforcement with clear guidelines for regulating short-term rentals in unincorporated Monterey County.

Thank you to all the residents who have reached out to my office to express their thoughts and concerns about this issue. I am thrilled we finally have updated the Vacation Rental Ordinance!

DISTRICT 1**2024 YOUNG SUPERVISORS PROGRAM**

This summer, we were proud to have 24 high school and college students in our 2024 Young Supervisors Program. We now have had over 300 graduates since this program began in 2011 when I began serving in the State Assembly.

The program is meant to be an introduction into county government, law and policy and careers in county government, and is the first program of its kind in California. This year's mock debate by the students was about the 2024 Housing Element.

PROGRESS ON SALINAS REGIONAL SOCCER COMPLEX

Construction began a few months ago to build a new mini-stadium with two artificial fields at the Salinas Regional Soccer Complex as well as needed additional parking. The fields could host future soccer tournaments and other attractions.

Fundraising is also currently taking place for the next phase of the project which will add 7 additional grass fields to the complex. Since these are on County of Monterey property, I recently worked with the Salinas Regional Sports Authority, that operates the soccer complex, to also add plans for a future skate park and BMX Pump Track for added recreation for our local youth.



DISTRICT 1**MOBILE OUTREACH AND CAFES WITH SUPERVISOR LUIS ALEJO**

It's important to get out into my district that includes most of the City of Salinas. My staff and I host Mobile Office Hours at El Mercado Popular at the Salinas Rodeo Grounds a few times a year and we will be at the Salinas Farmers Market in Oldtown Salinas on September 21.

We also hold Coffees and Conversations, called Café Con Luis in Spanish, at La Plaza Bakery in East Salinas where we bring county and community leaders to speak on hot topics during accessible evening hours. The next one will be held in October.

**Supervisors Snapshot is a production of the County Communications Bureau**

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