



**AGENDA: September 16, 2019 MEETING**  
**3:00 p.m. at Landers Belfield Hall, 58380 Reche Rd.**

*All HVCC agendas, contact information and minutes are posted on [www.hvccsite.org](http://www.hvccsite.org)*

Flag Salute

Roll Call/Delegate List

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes of August meeting included in agenda packet.

Treasurer's Report: Floy Creveling

1. **Guest Comments** on items not on the agenda
2. **SB County Fire** -
3. **SB County Sheriffs Dept** -
4. **Cal Fire** -
5. **California Highway Patrol (CHP)** -
6. **SB County 3<sup>rd</sup> District Supervisor Dawn Rowe** - Field Representative Mark Lundquist
7. **State Senator Shannon Grove 16th District** - Field Representative Dominic Heiden
8. **Congressman Paul Cook 8<sup>th</sup> District** - Rick Denison
9. **Results of HVCC 2018-2019 Audit** - HVCC Auditing Committee
10. **MB Democrat Club Hate-free Zone resolution** - Chris Nichols
11. **HVCC Position Statement on Industrial Solar** - Jim Harvey
12. **Committees:**
  1. *Standing:* Public Outreach (Betty Munson)
  2. *Ad Hoc:* Scenic Highway 247 (Betty Munson)
13. **President's Report**
14. **Community Reports List - Announcements**
15. **Review Action Items From This Meeting**

**Next HVCC meeting: Monday, October 21, 3:00 pm**  
Johnson Valley Community Center, 50567-A Quailbush Rd.

**Adjourn**

## **HVCC DELEGATES / COMMITTEE LIST**

January 2019

### **OFFICERS**

President: Jim Harvey

Vice President: Rick Sayers

Secretary: Betty Munson

Treasurer: Floy Creveling

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

*Members appointed by the 4 HVCC Organizations, residing in the community they represent.*

*Up to 3 voting members from each community, plus alternate to vote in case of an absence.*

Kim Abramson JVIA 760-792-4555 dojasmomdc@gmail.com

Dorothy Beasley FHCA 760-364-4174

Adrienne Bishop Landers 760-364-2345

Floy Creveling Landers 714-309-8677 g.creveling@att.net

Jim Hanley JVIA 760-364-4829 jhaflame@aol.com

Jim Harvey JVIA 760-401-1015 johnsonvalley@gmail.com

Betty Munson JVIA 760-364-2646 ranchotaj@gmail.com

Chris Nichols YMIA chris@wb6cdf.com

Rick Sayers YMIA 760-574-6598 rick@ricksayers.com

Roxanna Shamay Landers 760-333-2707 shamay@inreach.com

### **STANDING COMMITTEE**

**Community Outreach:** Chairperson: Betty Munson

Jim Hanley, Rick Sayers

### **AD HOC COMMITTEE**

**Scenic 247 Committee:** Chairperson: Betty Munson

Phillip Brown, Barbara Harris, Jim Harvey, Sarah Kennington, Sara Fairchild, Chuck Bell

*Committee members not required to be members of the Council*

## MINUTES AUGUST 19, 2019 MEETING

3:00 p.m. at Yucca Mesa Community Center

Guests: County 3rd District Supervisor Dawn Rowe, Field Rep Mark Lundquist; Rick Denison, Congressman Cook's Field Rep; Dominic Heiden, State Senator Shannon Grove's Field Rep; Calfire Chief Rusty McCulley, County Sheriff Cpt Trevis Newport, CHP Sgt Randy O'Brien, Jason Hansen, James and Lisa Edwards, Court Prittie, Gary Creveling, Sue Lefevre, Sharon Dove, Stale Louis Floki Terranova Nakken, Barbara Gazda

**Open with Flag Salute** 3:08

**Roll Call/Delegate List:** Present: Kim Abramson, Dorothy Beasley, Adrienne Bishop, Floy Creveling, Jim Hanley, Jim Harvey, Betty Munson, Chris Nichols, Rick Sayers, Roxanna Shamay.

**Agenda** with updates shown on screen - approved

**Minutes** of JULY meeting included in agenda packet - approved

**Treasurer's Report:** Floy Creveling - discussion success of Summer Solstice fundraiser and purchase of PowerPoint projector and screen - report approved

**1. Guest Comments** on items not on the agenda - none

**2. Calfire** - Battalion Chief Rusty McCulley - Calfire status in the 600 square mile State Responsibility Area. Our county has 14 fire engines staffed, two dozers, and 10 handcrews. Fire activity so far much less than in the last two years. Weather still trends hotter and drier, recent brushfires quickly extinguished.

**3. California Highway Patrol** - Sgt. Randy O'Brien - reminder, watch for stopped school busses, 25 mph speed limit when children are present. CHP will have extra patrols at those times. Good idea, always slow down in school zones. -After last month's HVCC, CHP Commander Cooper wrote to Caltrans stating the concerns about Hwy 247; people cannot pass safely from Boone Rd. and the curve before the Olivine area where collisions occur on the blind hill. Caltrans has responded they plan to make continuous double yellow striping. No details on schedule or possible signage. -Discussion 247 truck traffic: A task force to do commercial enforcement, trucks bypassing scales, overweight, over height. The CHP personnel in school zones drop-off times will be allocated to 247 for speed enforcement.

**4. State Senator Shannon Grove 16th District** - Field Representative Dominic Heiden repeated that Sen. Grove has a full time office in Yucca Valley. He lives there, but was dealing with the earthquake damage in Ridgecrest and Trona. He described co-ordination among first responders and emergency services; Ridgecrest (Kern County) and Trona (San Bernardino County) both are in the 16th Senate District. Sen. Grove got six semi trucks of bottled water to Trona as they had no drinking water for two weeks. Discussion: identifying places people can go to get help and support; inform county officials for coordinating Offices of Emergency Services. Question: any grant monies available to stockpile cases of water in community centers, saving time having it all in place.

-All bills in Legislature must be passed in September. Grove's SB 224 signed by the Governor; directs funds from prosecution of rural agricultural theft back into rural county crime prevention programs. Tracking other bills, including SB 27 requiring candidates for governor or president to release last 5 years of tax returns to be on the CA primary ballot.

**5. SB County 3rd District Supervisor Dawn Rowe** -

-Alert: closures on Park Ave. starting September 3, between Hwy 62 and Alta Loma, approaching the National Park, possibly ending October 28.

-Short Term Rental Ordinance for regulation of vacation rentals: the teleconference room in the Joshua Tree Government Center will be open for public comment during the Planning Commission's next meeting on September 5.

-Pioneertown's new water line is in, being tested by State, hopefully ready by mid-September.

-On September 24, the Board of Supervisors will hear from attorneys and the Chief Executive Officer on proposals for funding County Fire. The FP-5 parcel tax sunsets in two years with no increase. Funding after that may mean reduction in service, increased service times, other things that will impact us. Rowe urged everyone to stay tuned.

**6. Congressman Paul Cook, 8th District** - Rick Denison

-Denison recalled 1992, all the damage Dominic described occurred here; we lost water, power, infrastructure.

-Cook's Morongo Basin field office is in Apple Valley. They work to quickly resolve issues especially for veterans.

-They agree with CHP on safety on Hwy 247, important both to the Homestead Valley and to the Marine Base.

-Cook is still involved with issues in Johnson Valley OHV Area. An app is available of Shared Use Area map.

**7. County Sheriffs Dept** - Cpt. Trevis Newport

-Burglaries in the Homestead Valley area down. -Reminder, it is a \$600 ticket for passing a stopped school bus.

-The Department received a large OHV grant, for new vehicles and more offroad manpower.

-Newport described two new programs:

"Juvenile Court" operating in conjunction with DA and probation departments, using juveniles as prosecutors, defenders and juries, to learn courts operation by prosecuting low-level juvenile crimes, to keep them out of the system.

The Innroads Program, a first in the nation, a pilot collaboration by the Morongo Basin sheriffs with the Departments of Behavioral Health, Public Health, and Aging and Adult Services, to find homeless, especially veterans, to bring

mental health and other services here to them, and to keep them monitored. Help is here now for those who want it.

**8. HVCC 2018-2019 Audit** - ad hoc committee Dorothy Beasley, Jim Hanley, Roxanna Shamay

**9. HVCC Landers PO Box Renewal** - Floy

Rent due August 31, 61.00 for 6 months, 122.00 annually. Motion to discontinue paying 122.00 for PO Box, diverting mail to Jim Harvey's address; revisit this decision in a year. Approved unanimously.

**10. Update on Flamingo Heights Community Association** - Dorothy Beasley

FHCA now has a full board. Had a good meeting. Planning ice cream social fundraiser at the August 31 Farewell to Summer Fireworks & Fair at Homestead Valley Park. FHCA Membership 15.00 per person per year.

Jim Harvey read thank-you letter to HVCC from FHCA. Dorothy related help from Floy and Kim retaining tax-exempt status. E-mail updates planned to all the members, revamping Instagram and Facebook.

Discussion possibly moving food giveaway to FH Community Center, communicate with Pastor Ty.

**10. Committees:**

**Ad Hoc:** Scenic Highway 247 (Betty Munson) Jim Harvey reported e-mail from Yucca Valley Town Manager, expressing interest in pursuing the idea of including miles in Yucca Valley jurisdiction in the submission to Caltrans. Referred Curtis to Land Uses Services Karen Watkyns to answer any questions about corridor management plan. The Visual Assessment on those miles has been completed, 0-5. with exception of first mile, and the miles in Barstow. Question: to submit draft so far to LUS. Will post on website.

**Standing:** Public Outreach (Betty Munson) asked attendees to add e-mail addresses if they wish to receive announcements. All meeting announcements are made via radio, e-mail and newspaper. Full agenda posted on website, [www.hvccsite.org](http://www.hvccsite.org)

**11. President's Report**

-Suggestion for adding set of 4 wireless microphones for council, speakers and guests at meetings, and speaker system. after another fundraiser before the end of the year, @\$250-\$300 expense.

-Suggested drafting an HVCC position statement on our continuing opposition to industrial renewable energy projects: our rates going up, how intermittent they are, require additional transmission facilities. No benefit, no jobs added, property values reduced, power outages, using fossil fuels, no property tax on improvements, as well as the environmental damage we comment on each project. Developers' attempts to sweeten the deal with things like donations to schools do not make up for the overall losses. Suggestion invite developer rep to meeting after sending position paper.

-Registrar of Voters update of voting machines. Attorneys sent letters threatening litigation if service areas do not establish voting districts rather than electing officials at large. Lucerne Valley Unified School District forced to pay attorney's fee of \$30,000 out of their classrooms, resisted this change. They cannot pay the prohibitive costs of litigation or for establishing voting districts by demographics and already having two Latinos elected at large and would lose one. Negotiated to have Cumulative Voting, so if, for example, three seats are open, you still vote area-wide, but you have three votes to apply, one to each candidate, two for one, or all three for one. Problem: Although ROV can have machines capable of cumulative voting, but they must be authorized by the Secretary of State. Interim ROV did not want to contact SOS. Jim asked to send an HVCC letter with the Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association, to Registrar of Voters to pursue certification of machines to allow alternative voting. Board agreed.

**12. Community Reports List – Announcements**

Johnson Valley - Betty - concern over ABC regulations on non-profits serving alcohol at our fundraiser events. One-day permit doubled from \$25 to \$50, but also if your association is a 501(c)4 instead of a 501(c)3, it cannot serve hard liquor. A major fundraiser for JVIA is Cinco de Mayo serving margaritas. Question for IRS: what difference does the tax status make when serving mixed drinks? JV Oktoberfest is 2nd Saturday, October 12, serving 9 craft beers and hard cider. Admission \$8 per person (\$12 after September 28), includes buffet German dinner with desserts.

Yucca Mesa - Chris - Pilot program: open mic night for younger kids, September 5, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Light refreshments.

Yucca Mesa Community Center is now a tax-deductible 501(c)3. Mesa Fest September 21 with 30 beers on tap. 5 bands, 3:00-10:00 p.m. 3 wines, ciders. Craft art and food vendors. Mission: to get revenue to build a small playground

Morongo Basin Historical Society- Floy - handouts here on society information and newsletter free.

Landers - Roxanna - Fireworks and Fair at the Homestead Valley Park, August 31, 5:00-10:00 p.m. Fireworks Show at the Homestead Park, August 31. Flamingo Heights Ice Cream, beers. Landers Thrift Store open Friday and Saturday

Flamingo Heights - Dorothy - will have membership forms at Ice Cream Social

**13. Review Action Items From This Meeting**

-Jim Harvey letter to Secretary of State

-Jim Harvey HVCC position letter on industrial renewable energy

-HVCC audit after meeting

Next HVCC meeting: Monday, September 16, 3:00 pm  
Landers Belfield Hall, 58380 Reche Rd.

Adjourn 5:10 p.m

Betty Munson, Secretary

**Homestead Valley Community Council, Inc.**

**Treasurer's Report**

For the month of August 2019 to be reported on

**September 16, 2019**

**Checking Account:**

Beginning Balance 08/01/2019.....	\$ 478.77
Income.....	\$ 0.00
Expense.....	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance 08/31/2019.....	\$ 478.77

**Certificate of Deposit:**

Issue Date 02/20/2019	Interest rate 1.98% (APY 2.00%)	Matures 11/20/2019
Beginning Balance 02/20/2019.....		\$4,500.00
Interest paid this year (quarterly).....		<u>\$ 44.40</u>
\$22.63 increase from last month's interest of \$21.77 (22.63 + 21.77 = 44.40)		
Ending Balance 8/31/2019.....		\$4,544.40

**Total HVCC Assets in Bank: (\$478.77 + \$4,544.40) ..... \$5,023.17**

**Legend:**

CK – Check    DC– Debit Card    DEP-Deposit    EFT– Electronic Funds Transfer

**Floy Creveling**

**Treasurer**



## RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MORONGO BASIN A HATE-FREE ZONE

WHEREAS, The President of the United States stated clearly that white supremacy, hate crimes, and bigotry have no place in the United States; and

WHEREAS, there has been a startling rise in hate crimes across the United States,<sup>1</sup> we have suffered more than one mass shooting incident per day in 2019,<sup>2</sup> one hundred citizens die from gun violence every single day,<sup>3</sup> and groups of Americans are randomly chosen for mass murder; and

WHEREAS, a fear is growing among us all that the next incident could happen in our own community. With this growing fear there is a growing distrust of our neighbors and even our friends that creates a tense and unpleasant environment; and

WHEREAS, the Morongo Basin has a diverse population who report a growing number of incidents communicating racial, ethnic, sexual or other hostility from one resident to another;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we declare the Morongo Basin a Hate-Free Zone. We invite residents of the Basin to resolve to behave in public places respectfully and with civility and to keep any hatreds, fears of other people, or animosity in their homes. When at work, or at school, or the store, or public gatherings, we treat one another decently.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we will invite the Yucca Valley Town Council, 29 Palms Town Council, the Morongo Unified School Board and the MAC Board to join us in declaring the Morongo Basin a Hate-Free Zone.

Democrats of the Morongo Basin  
August 10, 2019

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<sup>1</sup> From the U.S. Department of Justice website, accessed August 7, 2019.  
<https://www.justice.gov/hatecrimes/hate-crime-statistics>

<sup>2</sup> CBS News <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/mass-shootings-2019-more-mass-shootings-than-days-so-far-this-year/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://lawcenter.giffords.org/facts/gun-violence-statistics/>



P. O. Box 3694 Landers, CA 92285 Email: [info@hvccsite.org](mailto:info@hvccsite.org)  
<http://www.hvccsite.org>

## **Homestead Valley Community Council Position Statement Regarding Large-Scale Solar And Wind Energy Facilities On Public And Private Lands**

The Homestead Valley Community Council (HVCC) formed in 1996 to address all matters affecting the Morongo Basin unincorporated communities of Yucca Mesa, Flamingo Heights, Landers, and Johnson Valley. Delegates appointed through the community associations represent each of these member communities. Homestead Valley is the designated location name for these communities in the San Bernardino County General Plan, which includes the Homestead Valley Community Plan.

HVCC has opposed all industrial-scale solar and wind project applications in and around Homestead Valley. In 2009, we opposed LADWP Green Path North transmission lines. In 2013, we opposed a wind energy project slated for the Black Lava Butte area of Pipes Canyon. In 2015, we expressed opposition to the Bowman Solar Project proposed in Landers. Each of the project applicants eventually withdrew their plans.

As the lead organization promoting state scenic designation for Highway 247, earlier this year we submitted scoping comments to the draft initial study for the Calcite solar project expressing concerns over the scenic intrusion it would impose along the route (this project was subsequently placed on hold).

HVCC opposes industrial-scale solar and wind projects because these projects provide NO benefit to any community imposed upon to host them. All project benefits are internalized for developers and investors, while ramifications and negative consequences are externalized for residents, ratepayers, and taxpayers to endure.

A common tactic that project applicants employ to try to pre-empt community

opposition is to offer perks to influential entities in target communities. (We saw this during the Bowman Solar debate; the applicant suggested providing funds for Landers Community Center infrastructure improvements.) We find this “pre-compensation” concept to be very unethical and indicative of just how deleterious these projects are to communities.

## Consequences

The externalized consequences of industrial-scale solar and wind projects include, but are not limited to the following:

**Impact On Property Values:** Any real-estate agent will tell you – few people want to live near a solar field or wind turbines. Unfortunately, many of these projects target private lands in residential living zones, requiring zoning variances to get them approved. It is extremely unfair for a property holder who purchased a residential property surrounded by other residential properties to find out they essentially live now in an industrial zone.

Properties in proximity to solar and wind farms are harder to sell. We have heard of strategies by some applicants to build projects in phases, thereby de-valuing property near the initial phase for later purchase at reduced rates.

These projects adversely impact surrounding property values and can impact property values of entire communities. Just the opposite is true when the same solar panels are installed in the already built environment, like home rooftops. Homes with rooftop solar have higher values than similar homes without it.

**Electricity Rates:** Californians pay some of the highest electricity rates in the country. Between 2011 and 2017, California’s electricity prices rose **five times** faster than the rest of the nation. This is primarily due to the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) that mandates more and more of the electricity supply in CA come from alternative sources like solar and wind farms. The state requires utilities to purchase these types of power, even though they cannot be relied upon to consistently power the grid. The intermittency of these supplies makes it difficult to match supply to demand. To make matters worse, solar and wind farms almost always require significant transmission upgrades and, in many cases, completely

new lines. These costs are passed on to us the rate payers by the utility supplier. The project owners reap all the financial benefits while we watch our electricity bills go higher and higher every year.

**Subsidies and Tax Breaks:** Solar and Wind project applicants enjoy massive incentives in the form of subsidies and tax breaks, all of which we provide through our taxes. Only these incentives make the projects financially viable. When studies that claim solar and wind energy now compare in cost to traditional energy sources, they never factor in the cost of the huge incentives paid for by the taxpayers. They also never account for the increased cost in infrastructure upgrades necessitated by the integration of solar and wind energy supplies.

In the end, we bear the tax burden that funds the incentives to make industrial solar and wind energy projects viable, and then we get higher utility rates in return. Imagine if we could instead invest our dollars into point-of-use energy generation like solar on our own roofs.

HVCC opposes the RPS mandate, and the massive subsidies solar and wind project developers receive. We support allowing market forces to determine the most reliable and least expensive energy sourcing.

Please note that HVCC does not oppose all solar energy generation. We are fully supportive of solar energy generation that is “point-of-use” – consumed at the location where it is being generated, especially if installed in an already-developed environment. Solar energy installations at Lucerne Valley Market, Lucerne Valley Unified School District, the Johnson Valley Community Center, and Morongo Unified School District are just a few examples of solar energy generation HVCC supports.

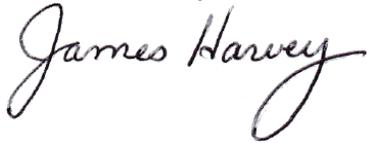
Unlike industrial solar and wind energy sources that require transmission and add to transmission line intermittency and congestion, point-of-use generation reduces transmission line load requirements.

Worse: industrial solar and wind projects require enormous amounts of land, most of which they permanently destroy, while point-of-use energy generation in the already-built environment requires no additional land use or destruction of any

precious open spaces. The materials and energy used in manufacturing, transporting, implementing and deactivating these projects in no way can be considered “green.”

Therefore, Homestead Valley Community Council opposes all industrial-scale solar and wind proposals on public or private lands.

James Harvey

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Harvey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

President, Homestead Valley Community Council  
(On behalf of HVCC)