



Minutes
General Meeting Agenda
March 19, 2023, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
 Conducted In-Person and via Zoom
 Any Questions: MarshCreekDems@gmail.com

<p>New 2023 Members: Cynthia Simpson Jonathan Simpson</p> <p>Renewing Members Diane Alexander Brian Bannerman Lynn Champion Thuy DaoJensen Joe Ely Kathy Ely Robin Ermolik Luci Flynn Troy Jensen Annette Lewis Clifton Louie Doug McClelland Susannah Meyer Desty Shoemaker JenniferStorm-Alves Marsha Tellier</p>

- I Call to Order and Introductions** (New members, Dignitaries) (3 minutes)
 - A. **Zoom:**
 - (1) All Zoom Attendees will be muted
 - (2) Please rename your Zoom to your first and last name.
 - (3) To ask questions: Raise Hand

- II Agenda Review** (3 minutes)
 - A. Any changes to the agenda? Add Doug McClelland to Swing Left after Voter Outreach Report add Secretary information under Shannon Skinner
 - B. Motion to Adopt Agenda: Motion CV ^{2nd} DS

- III Shannon Skinner – President** (5 minutes)
 - A. General update: All MCDC committees are looking for additional help
 - B. Secretary Position Connie has resigned as Secretary and we wish her the best.
 - C. Valerie Thurston has nominated Barbara Coffman to the position - at the next meeting we will vote to accept Barbara as Secretary
 - D. Other

- IV Carolina Villaseca – Vice President** (3 minutes) According to Lawrence Tribe (American Legal Scholar and Professor Emeritus at Harvard University) the indictment of former President Donald Trump is not a State or Federal issue but is a City of Manhattan issue. The indictment is the same thing that Michael Cohen was sent to prison for. He also believes there will be no jail time for Donald Trump but this is a first step in keeping him accountable. Exciting news: Next month Representative Barbara Lee is coming to our meeting via Zoom. Chuck Carpenter was instrumental in helping make that connection. The goal is to also get the other candidates to come to our meeting (Katie Porter, Adam Schiff and Eric Swalwell). For May, we have Assemblyman Tim Grayson – Please go back and look at his votes and look at his endorsements and please have questions. In August, Assemblywoman Lori Wilson will be our speaker.

- v Guest Speakers**
 - A. **Shoshana Wechsleir, Sunflower Alliance**
 Banning Oil/Gas Drilling – Shoshana worked with students from Heritage High School to put together a proclamation to ban oil and gas. This was delivered to Antioch City Council and was passed. They presented this to Brentwood who passed a moratorium on oil and gas while they look at legal ramifications. It was also presented in Oakley with no action taken. Sunflower Alliance is now working with the County to stop oil and gas drilling on county land. Shoshana is a climate and environmental justice activist who lives in West County. She is supervisor John Gioia’s representative for District 1 on the Sustainability Commission for the County. She has been primarily involved in fossil fuel issues in Contra Costa County for about 11 to 12 years.

Shoshana provided us with her notes for the presentation:

Notes from Shoshana Wechsleir's presentation

State-level oil and gas drilling:

Over 2 million Californians live within a half-mile of an oil and gas well. Five million live within a mile of an oil and gas well. That's 7 million Californians severely impacted by oil and gas drilling, subject to asthma and other lung disease, heart disease, reproductive impacts, cancer, and so on.

This makes for a very big public health crisis.

Two years ago, a Public Health Scientific Advisory Panel on the health impacts of fossil fuel extraction called together by Governor Newsom concluded that a **minimum** health and safety zone—or setback—should be established at 3200' feet (approx. ½ mile) from wells. Importantly, it also advised that the most health-protective measure was to stop drilling altogether.

That 3200' health protection zone (the minimum setback distance from oil and gas infrastructure) was established last year by the passage of Senate Bill 1137, and only for new drilling and reworked active wells. But this unfortunately was stayed by the fossil fuel industry, which spent 20 million dollars this last year on a deceptive referendum campaign. That law was supposed to have gone into effect in January. Now it's on hold until the November 2024 election—and only if we can fight back the repeal effort.

So where does that leave the 7 million Californians?

Since January, a total of 649 neighborhood drilling permits to upgrade, redrill, and retrofit oil wells have been released by our state oil and gas regulator, CalGEM—most of them this month—and 398 of them, or 60%, are in the 3200' health buffer zone established by SB1173.

- **Please call Newsom! (916) 445-2841 Call # and script here:**
<https://www.sunflower-alliance.org/tell-newsom-to-stop-new-drilling-now/>

What's happening in Contra Costa County?

For a fuller account, see <https://www.sunflower-alliance.org/the-campaign-to-stop-new-oil-drilling-in-contra-costa/>

A big oil and gas field was discovered in East Contra Costa in 1962 and a drilling heyday followed. Chevron and Exxon drilled all over the Old Brentwood Oil and Gas Field until they decided it wasn't worth it any longer. The legacy of that drilling is 273 plugged and abandoned zombie wells all over East County, with a good number of them under Brentwood.

All of these can be reactivated at any time, given current city, county and state regulations.

In 2019, it slipped past all of us that the County had allowed a drill pad to be constructed on Deer Valley Road, alarmingly close to a medical high school, Kaiser Antioch, and pending senior housing.

A year later came the Powerdrive proposal to do exploratory drilling within 900 feet of a Brentwood neighborhood.

That launched a campaign to end drilling in the county.

Success stories thus far:

A petition to ban new drilling and phase out existing drilling now has **3,823 signatures** mostly from Contra Costa residents. Let's get it up to at least 4,000!

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/no-new-oil-and-gas-drilling-in-contra-costa/>

Antioch has banned oil and gas drilling within its city limits, and has passed a resolution addressed to the County to ban and phase out.

Brentwood passed a moratorium on drilling—which is expiring on April 11. *****It is likely that the City Council will have this on their March 28th agenda.*****

qThe Democratic Party of Contra Costa passed a resolution—yes!—urging the County to end permitting of new oil and gas infrastructure, phase out existing drilling in Contra Costa, and transition any impacted fossil fuel workers to good careers in climate-friendly industries.

So did the Diablo Water Board!

Over 50 County-based environmental and social justice organizations signed an anti-drilling letter; 130 Contra Costa medical health practitioners signed a similar letter sponsored by Climate Health Now.

Three cities—Antioch, Richmond and Pinole—have passed solidarity resolutions w/ East County cities, urging the County to ban drilling. More city council resolutions are underway.

Remember, this is all about convincing the County to change the land use policy in its General Plan. (The current General Plan “encourages oil and gas drilling to promote the feasibility of agricultural land.”) The final draft is coming out very soon. Last year the County said it would follow state policy on setbacks (now in suspense), but would not prohibit drilling outright. That means it would continue to rubberstamp drilling proposals for another 20 years.

As for the state, last year it rubberstamped an injection well across from the Deer Valley Rd site. Said it was CEQA exempt—no public environmental review needed! For more information on this—Sunflower Alliance sued CalGEM, the state oil and gas regulator over this—please see <https://www.sunflower-alliance.org/why-were-suing-calgem/>. We won the ruling but expect the oilies to appeal.

We need to do everything we can to influence policy on both the state and local level, such as in Brentwood.

Please email the Mayor and City Council by March 27th and tell them you want to see oil and gas drilling prohibited in the City of Brentwood—to protect the health of the community and to enact sane, climate-protective policy.

The links are not live and will have to be copied and pasted. Here they are:

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/no-new-oil-and-gas-drilling-in-contra-costa/>

<https://www.sunflower-alliance.org/tell-newsom-to-stop-new-drilling-now/>

<https://www.sunflower-alliance.org/the-campaign-to-stop-new-oil-drilling-in-contra-costa/>

<https://www.sunflower-alliance.org/why-were-suing-calgem/>

The Slide Show for her presentation would not come up at the meeting. I have attached the presentation

B. Jovita Mendoza, Brentwood City Council Member

- (1) SB9 Allows Multistory Housing to be Built Next Door to You with NO City Oversight
- (2) What Can Be Done?

Jovita talked with us about SB9 and how the State Government is dictating what can be done in our communities without input from the Council or the people. The laws are relying on inaccurate data and highly favor developers. I have attached some information that Jovita supplied to us.

VI Membership – Elinor Bell, Co-Chair (3 minutes)

- A. To date, we have 52 members;
- B. Dues are \$20 \$10 for students
- C. Ways to join — Credit Card at <https://www.marshcreekdems.org/all-products> or Venmo MarshCreekDems (3416) or Check sent to Thuy DaoJensen/MCDC, P.O. Box 521, Brentwood, CA 94513
- B. Renewing Members become Members in Good Standing and may vote as soon as dues are paid. New members become Members in Good Standing and may vote 30 days after their dues are paid.

VII Voter Outreach – Linda Smith, Chair (5 minutes)

- A. Website www.MarshCreekDems.org – 2172 Visitors this year
 - (1) Website Editor Needed - Linda will train
- B. Update on **Farmers’ Market** every Saturday from 8 to 11:15 weather permitting
 - (1) Thanks to all our tabling volunteers – Ray Cole, Liz Fuller, Suzanne Cook, Sue Higgins, Tamela Hawley, Joe Ely, and Doug McClelland
- C. We need someone to table April 29th from 8 to 11:15. **ostcard/Letter Writing** –
 - (1) Thanks to our letter writers: Beverly Brown, Beau, Gannon, Brenda King-Randle, John Tomei, Judy Zuckert, Suzanne Cook, Kathy Ely, Luci Flynn, Clifton Louie , Barbara Lutz, Martha Steel-Spellman, Marsha Tellier, Beverly Brown, and Elinor Bell.
 - (2) Get Out the Vote Letters for Wisconsin Supreme Court Race
 - (a) Help encourage Democratic-leaning voters to vote in the Wisconsin Supreme Court election by April 4, 2023.
 - (b) Postcards are mailed by March 23 and Letters on March 28th.
 - (3) There is still time to write letters so please call Linda at (949) 575-9281
 - (4) Don’t forget to buy stamps
 - (5)
- D. Doug McClelland attempted to break through some of the confusion and misdirection regarding issues of Trump and Biden by passing out a multi-state analysis of the election results in each of the five swing states. It’s a short easy read and is attached.

Additionally, he summarized a 2020 report by SIGAR--a Bush-created agency responsible for issuing quarterly analysis of the Afghan war. You can go to the site

(<https://www.sigar.mil/about/index.aspx?SSR=1>) or just take a moment to read Doug's summary:

Under President Biden's predecessor, **Donald Trump**, the United States made a deal with the Islamist Taliban to withdraw all American forces. "**The biggest factor that led to the collapse** of the Afghan military in August last year was the U.S. decision to withdraw forces and contractors from Afghanistan through an agreement with the Taliban **signed by the Trump administration.**"

After the signing of the deal, "**the U.S. military support to Afghan forces came down, which also included a drop in air strikes in 2020** after a record high level in the previous year", the report added. "**Limiting airstrikes [in 2020] after the signing of the U.S.-Taliban agreement... left the ANDSF (Afghani National Defense Special Forces) without a key advantage in keeping the Taliban at bay,**" John Sopko, the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, said.

The botched withdrawal from Afghanistan was actually set up and pre-ordained by Trump according to SIGAR, an agency created by then-President Bush and appointed by Congress which has been tasked since 2008 on making quarterly reports on Afghanistan.

II Issues and Legislation – Bill Nusbaum, Chair

- A. **Meetings are held via Zoom on the first Saturday of the month at 11:30 am. The next meeting will be on April 2, 11:30**
- B. Topics for Development – Basis for recommendations.
 - (1) **Voter suppression**
 - (2) **Zoning and Growth**
 - (3) **Ethics Rules for Courts**
 - (4) **Gun Control**
 - (5) **Civics in the Classroom**
 - (6) **Poverty in Contra Costa County**
 - (7) **Infrastructure of Climate Change**
 - (8) **Political Homelessness Publications and Social Media**

VI Carolina Villaseca, Chair of Publications and Social Media Committee

- A. **Contact Carolina at (216) 570-1270 or mcvillaseca@yahoo.com.**
- B. We are continually posting important items on Facebook regarding news and calls to action. Send any call to action to Carolina at marshcreekdems@gmail.com. **Check our Facebook page often for our frequent updates, and post your comments and “likes” whenever you can!**

VII DPCCC District 3 Update – Carolina Villaseca, DPCCC District 3 Director (3 minutes)

- A. Antioch - Dr. Jag introduced an Equity in Education Audit that will help the school evaluate the culture, curriculum and instruction of each school. And it helps improve the performance through data and modeling of similar successful schools. Councilmember Wilson put forth an initiative to stop an additional beverage store in a part of Antioch saturated with liquor stores. Dominique King collected over 300 signatures in this effort. After many years of work by Harry Thurston and others, Antioch is finally moving forward with the Citizens' Police Oversight Committee. The 20 applications are being reviewed and the committee should start their work in the next month or so.
- B. Oakley - The council asked for feedback in a sports complex on 55 acres. Look for additional meetings coming up.
- C. Discovery Bay - Opened a new boat repair shop. This is great as we have a lot of avid boaters in East Contra Costa. All local dignitaries were present.
- D. Brentwood - BUSD is going thru redistricting. New school TK-5 eventually 8th. Growing 25% year over year. The overwhelming majority of houses built in Contra Costa are in D3. Working on a Youth Sports Complex at Fairview and Sand Creek. The next meeting will include a 3rd rendition of all the feedback from the first two workshops. Please look on our Facebook for the next meeting.
- E. Bethel Island - The sanitary district wants to develop the island. Very preliminary. They're getting 47 new homes that will increase the population by 42% in one fell swoop. They have one way to egress in case of an emergency, so this is a huge increase in population.

- F. Hijas del Campo - Marivel Mendoza Matheu founder, has resigned from her day job to be the Director full time. This organization has done amazing things in only 3 years, and they are looking to expand their reach and help more campesinos.

XV For the Good of the Order (comments/suggestions) (3 minutes)

XVI Adjournment

Treasurer’s Report – Thuy DaoJensen, Treasurer (5 minutes)

**Marsh Creek Dems Treasurer's Financial Statement
February 6 - March 5, 2023**

Date	Description of INCOME	Amount
	BALANCE as of February 6, 2023:	\$ 3,260.51
14-Feb-2023	SQUARE deposit of (1) membership dues	\$19.12
17-Feb-2023	SQUARE deposit of (1) membership dues	\$19.12
17-Feb-2023	SQUARE deposit of (1) membership dues	\$38.24
16-Feb-2023	CHECKS deposit of (1) membership dues	\$40.00
	Total INCOME	\$ 3,376.99
Check #	Description of EXPENSES	Amount
1078	P.O. Box 521 renewal fee	\$91.00
1079	Drinks for Holiday Party	\$42.97
	Total EXPENSES	\$133.97

BALANCE as of March 5, 2023: \$ 3,243.02