



North Fair Oaks Community Council

*A Municipal Advisory Council to the
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors*

2600 Middlefield Rd,
Redwood City, CA
650-363-1800
www.nfoforward.org

August 27, 2026

7:00pm

The North Fair Oaks Community Council provides recommendations on the issues of community health, safety, welfare, public works, and planning for the North Fair Oaks geographic area. It holds regular monthly meetings to address the needs of the community, act as a forum, and serve as an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors.

The North Fair Oaks Community Council was held in person at the Fair Oaks Community Center (2600 Middlefield Rd, Redwood City) and by teleconference using Zoom:

<https://smcgov.zoom.us/j/84603948786> It began at 7:00 PM and Spanish interpretation was available.

This meeting can be viewed in its entirety and shows each agenda item here: [YouTube Video](#)

1. ROLL CALL

Present:

Council members: Vice Chair Aponte, Whitney, Daly, Esser, Saman.

Absent:

Council member Orozco, Parisi, and Chair Prado

2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

In-Person Comments:

Gabriela Valencia
Rodrigo

Comments via Zoom:

Ashley S.

3. MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA

Motion: Council member Esser / Second: Council member Daly

Yes: 5 – Vice Chair Aponte, Esser, Whitney, Daly, and Saman

No: 0

Absent: 3 – Chair Prado, Orozco, and Parisi

Agenda is approved.

4. Presentation: San Mateo County General Plan Safety Element Update

Speaker:

Katie Faulker, Planning and Building Department

- **Why it's being updated:** State law now requires stronger climate and resilience planning, so the old "Natural Hazards" chapter (which only covered earthquakes, fire, and flooding) needs to be expanded and modernized.
- **Which hazards it covers:** The draft now looks at earthquakes and liquefaction, landslides, coastal erosion, flooding, sea level rise, wildfires, drought, and extreme weather.
- **What it means for North Fair Oaks:** The plan notes that NFO faces risk from liquefaction, future groundwater rise, extreme heat, and local flooding, and that these hazards hit seniors, disabled residents, and low-income households hardest.
- **What the community asked for:** NFO residents said they need better emergency communication and preparedness, a flood assessment and fixes, a heat plan and cooling centers, protection from wildfire smoke/poor air, and attention to housing conditions like lack of A/C.
- **What happens next:** The County is taking comments on the draft now, will revise it based on feedback, then send it to state agencies and finally to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors for approval.

Council member questions/comments:

- Whether or not North Fair Oaks was ready for possible **El Niño rains** and how soon preparations could happen.
- How often would the Safety Element be updated; the presenter said about every **five to eight years**.
- A council member said the plan should also consider **human-caused hazards**, such as power outages and chemical incidents.
- A council member noted that limited tree cover can worsen **extreme heat** in North Fair Oaks.
- Council members urged County departments to coordinate and address immediate needs, including **street-tree maintenance**, alongside long-term planning.

In-person Public Comments:

0

Public Comments via zoom:

Ever Rodriguez

5. Presentation: Proposition 4 Climate Bond Grant Applications for the North Fair Oaks Community

Speaker:

Karen Wang, Sustainability Department

- **Funding:** The applications seek state funding through Proposition 4, which makes up to \$10 billion available over the next decade for climate resilience.
- **Why North Fair Oaks:** The area faces risks from extreme heat and flooding, and residents have identified priorities such as more trees, better food access, and stronger public spaces.
- **Cooler homes and more trees:** One proposal would support home cooling improvements, expand tree shade, and create a mobile market for fresh food and essential resources.
- **Community facilities and heat relief:** Other proposals would improve the Fair Oaks Community Center and develop a heat action plan with a cooler, shadier area around the North Fair Oaks Library.
- **Next steps:** The County was gathering feedback to strengthen the applications. Council members and residents also suggested considering more centrally located sites within North Fair Oaks.

Council member questions/comments:

- What would happen if the grants were **not awarded**. Karen Wang said there may be future funding rounds, and the County is exploring other opportunities.
- Whether the **Community Center and library** are central enough to North Fair Oaks and suggested looking at sites farther along Middlefield Road.
- A member noted that the proposed project map left out a nearby, densely populated area with hot apartment buildings and asked that it be considered.
- Would **renovating the Community Center** would be more cost-effective than building a new one; no cost-benefit analysis was available at the meeting.
- Council members asked about competition for statewide funding and the tight application timeline. Karen confirmed the applications were underway on a compressed schedule.
- Council Member Saman asked for more details on how home-cooling funds might be used, such as HVAC or window upgrades, and requested that available information be emailed to the council.

In-Public Comments:

Gabriela Valencia

Public Comment via zoom:

Ever Rodriguez

6. Presentation: Introduction to Midpeninsula Regional Open Space and project update

Speaker:

Margaret MacNiven, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

- **Presenter and mission:** Margaret MacNiven introduced the **Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District**, which protects open space, restores nature, and offers opportunities for public recreation and education.
- **Nearby places to visit:** She highlighted **Ravenswood Open Space Preserve** as a nearby, mostly flat trail suitable for families, and also mentioned preserves in the hills and along the coast.
- **Access improvements:** Midpen and partner agencies improved neighborhood access to Ravenswood Preserve and the Bay Trail. The district is also adding accessible trails and facilities for visitors with disabilities.
- **Wildfire preparation:** Midpen manages vegetation near access roads to help reduce fire intensity and make it easier for emergency crews to reach fires.
- **Education and partnerships:** The district offers nature walks, school programs, docent-led hikes, and conservation career events, and works with community partners to connect young people with nature.
- **Protecting wildlife:** MacNiven encouraged residents to avoid rodenticides when possible because poison can harm wildlife such as coyotes, bobcats, and hawks.

Council member questions/comments:

- Council Members thanked Margaret for coming to the council and praised Midpen's work protecting open space, including its role in preserving Mount Umunhum.
- Council members thanked Midpen and its partners for protecting local natural areas and making them available to the public.
- A council member thanked Margaret for her service on Midpen's board and with Green Foothills and noted the need to replant and care for the street trees on Middlefield Road.
- A council member participating online thanked Margaret for the presentation and said they looked forward to next steps.

In-Public Comments:

Gabriela Valencia

Public Comment via zoom:

Ever Rodriguez

7. Report Out:

- **District 4:** Supervisor Lisa Gauthier
- **County Executive's Office:** Nicholas Calderon
- **Council Member's Report:** Whitney, Daly, Aponte

8. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.