

**Merced County
McSwain Municipal Advisory Committee
Established 2006
Daron McDaniel, Supervisor District 3
Darren Olguin, Chairman
Maria Skordos-Moore
Gerald, Solano, Toby Soares,
Roy Torres, Andrew Kersten, Valerie Roden**

**Thursday February 25, 2016
7:00p.m.**

1. **Welcome-Call to order**
2. **Roll Call: Board Members- Darren Olguin, Chairman, Maria Skordos-Moore, Andrew Kersten Roy Torres, Toby Soares, Gerald Solano, Valerie Roden**
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Approval of Agenda**
5. **Approval of meeting minutes**
6. **Public Opportunity to speak on any matter within the Council's jurisdiction that is not on the agenda, each speaker is allotted five minutes. No Action will be taken on any item introduced during the public opportunity, because the subject or item has not been formally placed on the agenda. If you would like address the council on an time not appearing on this agenda, please pick up a 3x5 card and print name, address, subject or item to be addressed and give to the board prior to speaking. In order that all interested speakers have an opportunity to speak, any person addressing the Council will be limited to (5) five minutes of speaking time**

Reports

Merced County Public Works- Dana Hertfelder

Sheriff's Dept- Sgt. James Pacheco

Sen. Cannella- Louise Farley, Representative

Sen Adam Gray- Ryan Heller, Representative

Sen. Jim Costa- Daniel Martinez

CHP- Moises Onsurez

Fire- Glenda Leonard

Planning- Pam Navares

Old Business

MAC representatives and Public Works Director, Dana Hertfelder met with Caltrans officials to discuss concerns and solutions to improving the intersection. The California Highway Patrol advised the MAC that there have been 11 reported accidents at the intersection over the last five years. With the increase in traffic, growth in McSwain, Gurr Road is becoming a more active route for trucks headed south down Gurr. Updates will be made ASAP.

Zip Code Change. In an effort to build McSwain into its own identity and community the need for our own zip code could provide economic benefits as well as our plan to grow McSwain with balance and forethought. McSwain can be an economic benefit to the county by maintaining high property values, low crime access to major freeways and highways and a great school district. By building a community that reflects the area, we can be assured that we have a voice of our own.

Senator Jim Costa's office(via Daniel Martinez) is assisting with the process.

The MAC spoke with the Atwater Postmaster(Joanna) who is preparing what needs to be completed in order to make the transition.

Public Works

Signs waiting for decals to arrive and sign placement at each location representing the school district boundaries.

Public works is working with the MAC to determine if we can use high school students to complete community service in the McSwain area.

The side hills along the Buhach OC and SP Avenue were looked at by Public Works to determine if the work can be done by county personnel only. There are other areas within McSwain that can be improved with community service.

The MAC has sent a letter to Dana Hertfelder, Director of Merced County Public Works to assist in improving the Gurr Road/ Hwy 140 location for improved safety and lighting.

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Communications

Brian Tasseey via Next Door.Com

Thank you for volunteering to be part of this advisory group. I know that a volunteer rarely gets thanked and usually gets tons of questions. I run the Tree Partners Foundation with a friend so I have some understanding.

When I read "accomplish our goals to improve McSwain" I am am concerned since no communication has been sent directly to its residents. A leadership group needs to be established (which you have done with the MAC) but clear communication needs to be established before goals are set. While email and social media are useful tools (ones I prefer) they are not universally accepted. Many residence are older and not tech savvy and should still be included in decisions.

I would encourage the group to send out a letter explaining the intentions of the MAC and how people can be involved. I have lived here for 5 years and this past month is the first I have heard of the group.

New Business

None to report

Begin program to assist Buhach Colony High School Students with completing their community service program.

Committee Member Comments

An oppportunity for McSwain MAC members to voice concerns or bring issues before the Council.

Supervisor Daron McDaniel

Agenda Items for future meetings

A. Upcoming Neighborhood Events

Adjournment