

Vol. 13, Number 1
January 19, 2026 CPAREports ...

... From the Board

Happy New Year! The CPA Board hopes that you all had a very happy and healthy holiday season.

This year, one of our priority issues is to continue to attend legislative committees on both city and county levels. We want them to know what our priorities are for affordable/workforce housing and the protections of CEQA. On January 27, the legislative committee with the City of Santa Barbara will be meeting. The County legislative committee meets on the first Monday of the month. We are also watching AB736/SB417, a \$10 billion bond for affordable housing aimed at being on the June ballot. We encourage you to read more [here](#).

We are considering co-sponsoring a panel series on how groups with different interests can meet the housing needs of our community.

... Speaker's Series

Join CPA's February Speakers Series featuring Sigrid Wright, Executive Director of the Community Environmental Council (CEC) as she updates us on current projects and the Earth Day 2026 Festival.

CPA Citizens Planning
Association
of Santa Barbara County

www.citizensplanning.org

CPA February Speaker's Series

 **MONDAY**
FEBRUARY 2

 **12:00 PM**
1:00 PM



Join CPA to hear from **Sigrid Wright** who brings over 30 years of experience in nonprofit environmental management and has built multiple programs for climate, energy, and food-related issues. Under her leadership as Executive Director of CEC, Wright has grown its impact and stature in many ways.

Sigrid will be bringing us up to date on current projects and the upcoming Earth Day celebration.

[Click on the flyer to register.](#)

... North County Land Use

CPA NCLUC meets every other month to discuss North County issues. The group continues to be concerned about the potential loss of agricultural land in the Santa Maria General Plan and also with the Bodger Ranch development, now a Builders Remedy project in the Lompoc Valley. The Richard's Ranch annexation is another thorny issue in the Orcutt area. We are monitoring agendas for more information alongside our sister organization *SBCAN* which is actively participating in the General Plan's process.

... South County Land Use

The SCLUC will be meeting in person at the office on Wednesday, January 28 at noon.

Paseo Nuevo Redevelopment:

As we updated you in December, Marell Brooks, President of CPA, attended the December 2 Santa Barbara City Council meeting via Zoom to speak in opposition to the DDA proposal brought to the council. To view the recording of the city council meeting, all six hours of it, [click here](#). CPA submitted [this public comment letter](#) prior to the meeting.

We will keep you updated as new plans for the redevelopment are proposed.

1609 Grand Avenue:

CPA is staying current with updates about the 1609 Grand Avenue proposal. At this point, we know that an EIR is needed for the project to move forward.

Visit [Smart Action for Growth and Equity \(SAGE\)'s website](#) for more information on 1609 Grand Avenue and 505 E Los Olivos.

Carpinteria's 18-Story Housing Project:

CPA will also follow the 5115 Ogan Road Application, most commonly known as Carpinteria's 18-Story Housing Project, proposed by the same developer looking to build the eight story building behind the Santa Barbara Mission and the huge proposal for 1609 Grand Ave. Read more in [this article](#). Stay tuned for more information.

... Storm Damage Reports from Two of our Local Groups

Meredith Hendricks, ED of the Land Trust will be our speaker at the CPA March Speaker Series. We are passing on this information from the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County because your help is needed.

"Recent storms caused extensive damage at Arroyo Hondo Preserve, including flooding, landslides, and impacts to trails, roads, and infrastructure. While the preserve is resilient, the effects of this storm are significant, and Arroyo Hondo Preserve is currently closed for safety as the land continues to shift and settle. Any additional winter storms will worsen the situation, so we thank you for your patience.

Our stewardship team is actively assessing conditions, but many areas are difficult to access, and some repairs can't begin until the ground dries. What we do know is that recovery will take time—and it will require many thousands of dollars to support cleanup, stabilization, and long-term care of this special place.

This is the less-visible side of conservation: showing up after the storm, caring for the land when it's vulnerable, and responding with patience, responsibility, and respect.

We'll be sharing additional updates in the coming weeks. For now, your generosity ensures we can continue stewarding Arroyo Hondo Preserve—safely, thoughtfully, and in service to the land.

If you're able, a gift today will help [support Arroyo Hondo Preserve](#) during this critical recovery period. Your support allows our team to respond in real time as needs become clearer and repairs begin."



And see this information provided by the Gaviota Coast Conservancy:

"Rancho Tajiguas Preserve has also been impacted. Sustained rainfall has caused erosion, flooding in low-lying areas, and mudslides that require immediate attention to protect the land, infrastructure, and sensitive habitats. Our team is actively assessing damage and prioritizing repairs, but this kind of response requires resources.

Your support right now helps us care for the land when it needs it most. Contributions directly support recovery efforts at the Preserve and ensure we can continue stewarding this special place through increasingly unpredictable conditions.



Your support helps restore native habitat, bring back species like the Steelhead Trout, and make Rancho Tajiguas a place that serves both nature and community.

[Click Here Give Now](#)

Thank you for being a part of this with us."

... Membership

Membership: "1000 Strong": We recently found some 'vintage' bumper stickers in the office which were printed in the 80s during a CPA membership drive. I don't know if the membership ever reached 1000 but that was their goal. 45 years later, CPA membership has stayed relatively steady in the past three years, but we really need to retain and attract new members. We operate on a shoestring budget with the board

handling most chores. To support this small budget of approx. \$15,000, we have had to dip into our reserves a bit each year. This helps cover rent, insurance, utilities, bookkeeping, and support for our various priority issues. We have been very fortunate to receive some bequests, such as last year's Sally Sphar bequest which allows us to pay a communications assistant for a few hours each month to help with the newsletter.

If you receive our CPAR newsletter, please check your records that you are current on 'dues/donations'. We send the newsletter to approx. 250 residents but less than half of those recipients are members. Our membership year begins August 1st so dues that come in early 2026 will be considered 2025-2026 dues. If you support the work of CPA to protect local control of land use policies and to promote the creation of affordable and equitable housing, please consider supporting CPA.

Condolences to the family of CPA member Jurgen Boehr. Jurgen and Pam are longtime supporters of CPA.

The [CPA website](#) offers a wealth of information. All our past comment letters are posted as are the links to some of the past Speakers Series. Important links for decision-making bodies are listed and we will now add copies of CPAR. You may join CPA via this [Paypal link](#).

Sincerely,



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