

BLOOMINGTON MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (MAC)

The mission of the Bloomington Municipal Advisory Council is to engage the community and advise the County to solve problems, create solutions, and set a course for the future of Bloomington.

AGENDA

Wednesday, November 5, at 6:00 pm

The Bloomington MAC will hold meetings pursuant to the provisions of the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 dated March 17, 2020, which suspends certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown act. Members of the public may participate electronically in the meetings.

(1) In-person meeting will be held at the Ayala Park Community Center, 17909 Marygold Ave, Bloomington, CA 92316.

(2) To participate via video, visit here: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqCYbka4xni198pxKAn3-ga88SWeui3tO>

(3) In lieu of making a comment in person, you may submit your comments via email to supervisor.baca@bos.sbcounty.gov. Your comments will be read into the record at the meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ROLE CALL OF MAC MEMBERS

Angela McClain	Dianne Méndez	Teresa Escoto
Yvonne Delgado	Alejandro Mariscal	Joseph Silva

3. AGENCY STAFF REPORTS (3-5 Minutes)

a) Supervisor Joe Baca, Jr.'s Office

- Staff thanked agencies and community for participation and emphasized Supervisor Baca's ongoing priority to revitalize Bloomington, address truck impacts, and attract community-serving businesses (e.g., grocery store).
- Committed to:
 - i. Continue pushing for more outreach and Spanish access.
 - ii. Attend the Dec. 16 Board of Supervisors meeting on AB 98 truck routes.
 - iii. Share updates on stalled projects (e.g., Cedar & San Bernardino, Valley & Lynwood).

b) State Legislative Update

- Highlighted Senator Reyes' priority on a new law requiring general plan and specific plan amendments (including truck routes and warehouse siting) with real public input.
- Asked cities and the County to inform her office directly about public hearings so she can track good-faith compliance or lack thereof.
- Gave brief summaries of several signed bills (SB 245, 271, 294, 352, 800, 415, 686, 847) and noted \$116M in state funding she helped secure this year, including:
 - i. \$1M for AQMD air monitoring under AB 98.
 - ii. \$15M for Dream Resource Liaisons at community colleges.
 - iii. \$100M to support Victims of Crime Act programs.

c) CHP

d) Code Enforcement

- Continuing to work joint operations with Sheriff's Department and Fire Marshal (e.g., problem pallet yard in Fontana/Bloomington fringe).
- Handling complaints about illegal dumping, truck yards, and street vendors.
- Residents requested faster follow-up on citations and more visible action on problem properties and illegal truck activity.

e) Colton Joint Unified School District

f) County Fire Department

- Station 76 (Bloomington): Remodel is in design & planning; construction anticipated around Spring 2026.
- October call stats for Bloomington (approximate):
 - i. ~207 calls for service; majority medical.
 - ii. ~16 fire-related calls (structure, vegetation, vehicle, rubbish).
 - iii. 11 traffic collisions, plus public assists and alarm calls.
- Noted:
 - i. La Niña outlook: cooler, somewhat wetter; normal Santa Ana wind pattern (no elevated, extreme forecast beyond normal).
 - ii. Largest new hire tower in department history (70 firefighters in training); some expected to be assigned to Bloomington stations.

- iii. Strong partnership with Sheriff's Department for joint response and public safety.
- g) Sheriff Department
 - Fontana Station sergeant and Bloomington deputies reported multiple successes:
 - i. Street vendor robbery / attempted kidnapping case:
 - 1. Cameras helped identify suspect vehicle and 3 suspects (including two documented gang members).
 - 2. All arrested and charged with robbery and gang enhancements, also tied to a prior armed robbery.
 - Pallet yard operation (Fontana, impacting Bloomington):
 - i. Multi-agency operation with Code Enforcement and Fire Marshal.
 - ii. 3 arrests (two for drug charges, one warrant); location cited and being cleaned up.
 - Kessler Park graffiti case:
 - i. Juvenile gang member identified via surveillance and social media; caused about \$4,000 in damage.
 - ii. Arrested after foot pursuit, found with narcotics for sale, and charged with vandalism, resisting, drug sales, and gang enhancement.
 - Emphasized:
 - i. Cameras are critical tools (crime solving, real-time alerts like stolen cars passing through).
 - ii. Staffing is limited; residents asked about more resources and fixed cameras in problem truck areas.
- h) Special District
 - Thanked Sheriff's Department for frequent park patrols at Ayala and Kessler.
 - Reported:
 - i. Halloween at Kessler Park: ~3,000 attendees in 3 hours; no major issues; heavy support from Sheriff's Department and County partners.
 - ii. Preparing for holiday programming:
 - 1. Gingerbread class and photos with Santa at Ayala.
 - 2. New 2026 brochure coming with updated programs and events.
 - Expressed frustration with vandalism and overnight misuse of parks and gratitude for enforcement support.
- i) West Valley Water District
 - Key staff-report points:
 - i. WVWD serves ~100,000 customers across Rialto, Fontana, Colton, Bloomington, and nearby unincorporated areas.
 - ii. No rate increases for 10+ years, despite rising costs.
 - iii. Major investments in hydrants, pipelines, tanks, wells, treatment, backup generators to ensure reliability and fire resiliency.
 - iv. Ongoing and expanding water conservation programs, including on-site irrigation audits and education.

4. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

- Value of Water Presentation – West Valley Water District
 - WVWD is a public, non-profit special district; ratepayers are effectively part-owners.
 - System snapshot:
 - 32+ square miles of service area.
 - 23 groundwater wells, 26 storage tanks, 7 treatment sites.
 - 417 miles of pipelines and 3,825+ fire hydrants (planned, installed, and maintained by WVWD).
 - Investments & needs:
 - Over \$100M invested in capital projects in last 10 years; another \$100M+ planned next decade.
 - Focus on fire resiliency (new hydrants, larger water lines, backup generators for power shutoffs & wildfires).
 - Costs & proposed rate change:
 - Construction, electricity, labor, and materials have risen 30–60%+ while WVWD rates have been flat.
 - Proposed increase for average residential customer:
 - About +\$3.50–\$5/month, depending on season and usage tier.
 - Even after increase, WVWD remains among the lowest water bills in the region.
- Bloomington Roadwork Improvements Project- Bob Vezutto
 - Locust Avenue:
 - Paving this month; 2 lanes open next month, full 4-lane opening after Edison pole relocation (early next year).

- Some residents declined to sell property for ADA ramps; a few corners will not have full ADA curb ramps.
 - Jurupa Avenue:
 - Construction ongoing, but road remains open with partial closures.
 - Widening to 4 lanes; work expected through about May.
 - 11th Street:
 - Widening and curbs complete; road open.
 - Final paving overlay scheduled for March; remaining work is behind curbs.
 - Armstrong Road:
 - Full closure expected January; goal to reopen by September or earlier, pending work and utilities.
- San Bernardino County Economic Development – Derek Armstrong
 - County Economic Development, in partnership with Supervisor Baca, is focusing on services & amenities, not more logistics:
 - USC Price / Sunstone Challenge:
 - Bloomington selected for student-led economic development study.
 - Teams walked Valley Corridor, spoke with businesses (including a permitted vendor) to understand gaps and opportunities.
 - Urban Land Institute (ULI) Technical Assistance Panel:
 - Two-day expert panel in January (site visits, stakeholder interviews Jan. 21; preliminary recommendations Jan. 22; final report ~1 month later).
 - Update to 2017 Valley Corridor Specific Plan:
 - County funding an update (via PlaceWorks) to shift focus away from warehouse-heavy strategies and toward community-serving uses.
 - Goals:
 - Attract a full-service grocery store, restaurants, and neighborhood amenities.
 - Improve corridor appearance (underground utilities, lighting, sidewalks, streetscape).
 - Build trust through more consistent presence, outreach, and partnerships with local residents.
 - Acknowledged:
 - Past outreach has been insufficient; commitment to more informal community meetings, especially about Cedar/Valley corridor and potential sites.
- San Bernardino County Code Enforcement - Deputy Chief Abraham Duran
 - Discussed enforcement framework for illegal street vending, dumping, and nuisance properties:
 - Emphasized the County's desire to work with vendors so they can operate legally, not just shut them down.
 - Environmental Health provides bilingual (English/Spanish) workshops on permit types, fees, timelines, and requirements.
 - Key points:
 - Fees vary by permit type but are not in the thousands of dollars; staff tries to be flexible and supportive.
 - Staff can answer questions about payment timing and any available options; unclear if formal payment plans exist.
 - For future Environmental Health presentations, community can submit questions in advance so staff arrives prepared (e.g., about fee waivers, payment plans).
 - Regarding property owner fines (e.g., illegal dumping of truck tires):
 - Property owners are typically responsible for removing illegally dumped materials but may contact Code Enforcement to review individual cases and explore options.
- AB98- San Bernardino County Land Use Department – Anthony Pham
 - AB 98 requires:
 - Establishing truck routes as part of local planning for logistics uses.
 - Proposed Valley area truck routes include:
 - Cedar Avenue
 - Slover Avenue
 - Agua Mansa Road
 - Status:
 - Planning Commission recommended the proposed truck network to the Board of Supervisors with an added requirement that routes be reviewed annually and adjusted based on performance and community feedback.
 - Board hearing scheduled for Dec. 16.
 - Public Works role:
 - Install truck route and restriction signage.
 - Coordinate with CHP commercial vehicle enforcement to ensure compliance once signage is in place.

- Supervisor's office noted:
 - Existing traffic mitigation meetings for Bloomington (quarterly) will continue.
 - They requested signage specifically to enable stronger enforcement and citing of violators.
 - Staff acknowledged strong community feedback favoring truck restrictions on residential streets and skepticism about Cedar as a truck route.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- October 1, 2025, Meeting
- Minutes approved

6. PUBLIC COMMENT - Individuals who wish to address the MAC are requested to fill out a "Request to Speak" form and submit the completed form to Supervisor Baca's staff. Each speaker is allotted a three-minute time limit. Please note that MAC Members will not engage in discussion or take immediate action on items presented during this public comment period.

- AB 98 Truck Routes / Cedar Avenue
 - Multiple residents opposed designating Cedar Avenue as a truck route:
 - Homes are very close to the roadway; proximity to schools and parks.
 - Cedar bridge not yet complete; fear of severe congestion and safety issues.
 - Concern that making Cedar a "major truck route" would make it easier to approve new industrial projects along that corridor under AB 98.
- Residents requested:
 - MAC and Supervisor Baca oppose Cedar as a truck route at the Dec. 16 Board meeting.
 - Consider Riverside Avenue as the primary truck route instead, at least until Cedar improvements are fully built.
- Bloomington Business Park EIR / Warehouses
 - Environmental justice groups (CCA EJ, PC4 EJ) and residents:
 - Noted the recirculated EIR is out with comments due Dec. 11.
 - Oppose the project as currently written (3 additional warehouses) due to air quality, traffic, and safety concerns.
 - Urged MAC to submit a letter in opposition or insisting on much stronger community benefits and mitigations.
- Some residents:
 - Argued that prior versions of the project included significant community funding (e.g., for a new school), which has now been lost.
 - Suggested a temporary warehouse moratorium and stronger focus on commercial / mixed-use on Cedar and Valley.
- Illegal Truck Yards & Enforcement
 - Repeated complaints about:
 - Illegal truck parking and yards on 2–3 acre lots in residential areas.
 - Trucks parked in front of homes, blocking visibility and driveways, creating noise and pollution.
- Residents urged:

- More code enforcement, use of cameras in hot spots, and coordinated operations with Sheriff/CHP.
- Explore additional budget/resources for Sheriff's commercial enforcement.
- Street Vendors & Food Safety
 - Environmental justice groups:
 - Criticized anti-vendor rhetoric and past comments about alleged "canine meat" as harmful and unverified; requested clear health department documentation before such statements are repeated.
 - Emphasized that vendors are part of the community and often operating out of economic necessity; urged a focus on permits, education, and pathways to compliance.
- Some residents and MAC-aligned speakers:
 - Stressed public safety, parking hazards, and fairness to brick-and-mortar businesses who pay rent, utilities, and taxes.
 - Emphasized they want vendors to follow the same health and safety rules as any other food business, not to eliminate vending.
- MAC Chair clarified:
 - Current focus is on compliance and safety, not banning vendors.
 - MAC supports workshops and resources to help vendors get permitted.
- Outreach, Language Access & Representation
 - Multiple speakers noted:
 - MAC announcements are mainly in English and not widely seen.
 - Meetings lack full Spanish interpretation, excluding much of Bloomington's primarily Spanish-speaking population.
- Requests included:
 - Routine Spanish interpretation for entire meetings.
 - Bilingual social media posts, flyers, banners, and notices in local businesses, schools, churches, and senior centers.
 - Better inclusion of youth and newer residents.
- Community Cleanliness, Illegal Dumping & Blight
 - Concerns about:
 - Trash, graffiti, illegal dumping (especially tires) and overgrown weeds along key roads like San Bernardino Avenue and near schools.
 - Property owners receiving citations for illegal dumping they did not commit.
- Residents stressed:
 - Need for strong code enforcement and fire risk reduction.
 - Community has to "take back Bloomington" by reporting issues and taking pride in their own properties.

- 4-H & Youth Programs
 - A resident highlighted:
 - Once-large local 4-H program is down to ~20 students and needs supplies and sponsors (animal stands, clippers, rakes, camping/fishing gear, art supplies, fleece for no-sew blankets, etc.).
 - Youth are making blankets and socks for nursing home residents and need connections to local senior facilities willing to host them.
- Zimmerman School / Education
 - Speakers raised alarm over:
 - Condition and age of Walter Zimmerman Elementary and its low test scores.
 - Lost opportunity from prior warehouse-linked funding that was expected to help build new school facilities.
- Called for:
 - School district leadership to attend MAC meetings and explain plans for Zimmerman and potential new school sites.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Old Business
 - Bloomington Cleanliness & ADA Access:
 - MAC reiterated concern about trash, dumping, and missing ADA ramps where some property owners declined easements.
 - Suggested more community-driven outreach, possibly community volunteers accompanying County staff to explain projects and build trust.
 - Outreach & Spanish Interpretation:
 - MAC again asked Supervisor's office to revisit Spanish interpretation with County Counsel and leadership.
 - Acknowledged continuing need to increase outreach and bilingual materials.
- New Business
 - Approval of 2026 Meetings
 - MAC approved the 2026 calendar, remaining dark in January and July.
 -
 - Confirmed dates will be distributed and shared publicly; MAC and Supervisor's staff encouraged residents to share the calendar widely.
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 - MAC requested Bloomington banners (Ayala Park, Cedar & Slover, Kessler Park) in English and Spanish to promote MAC meetings and community engagement.

8. MAC BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Board members collectively:

- Thanked residents, environmental groups, and agency partners for a highly engaged meeting, acknowledging it ran long but was productive.
- Emphasized they are volunteers, serving as a conduit between Bloomington and Supervisor Baca, and that they welcome constructive feedback and 1-on-1 conversations.
- Reaffirmed:
 - Opposition to making Cedar Avenue a truck route in its current state and intent to attend the Dec. 16 Board hearing.
 - Commitment to more outreach (churches, schools, Chamber, social media) and to helping expand community participation.
 - Desire to work with, not against, environmental justice organizations and community advocates, even when they disagree on tactics.
- Highlighted:
 - Upcoming Easter event (March 28) with horseback rides for kids and the need for greater community volunteer support.

- Ongoing food pantry efforts serving dozens of families per day; appreciation for donations to the Olive Branch pantry and similar programs.
- The importance of youth-serving programs (4-H, school improvements, park programming) as central to every land-use and economic decision.

9. ADJOURN MEETING

- Meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM

NEXT BOARD MEETING: December 3, 2025, at 6:00 pm

All Board materials can be found at the San Bernardino County 5th District Website: <https://www.sbcounty.gov/baca>