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Santa Maria Proposing Annexation at Union Valley Parkway



Red outline indicates area under consideration for annexation by the City of Santa Maria.

annexing 44 acres at Highway 135 and Union Valley Parkway and allowing a developer, Richards Ranch LLC of San Luis Obispo, to proceed with an application to develop 16 acres for commercial use, 18 acres for 400 apartments and 9 acres for ninety-five townhomes. The project would span both sides of UVP east of Highway 135.

On January 17 at the Santa Maria Public Library, a public hearing explaining the EIR was presented. About 50 people, mostly from Orcutt, expressed concerns about the density of the project, traffic and the annexation process. Developer Michael Stoltey of Richards Ranch LLC of San Luis Obispo, said that the proposed project has

The City of Santa Maria is considering lower housing densities than state affordable requirements would allow on the site and that the application is being pursued through the City because Santa Barbara County could not provide water allocations. To be contacted with information regarding the project, contact Santa. Maria City Planning Manager, Dana Eady, at deady@cityofsantamaria.org. You may also contact Fourth District County Supervisor Bob Nelson at Bob.Nelson@countyofsb.org.

> The annexation to the city would need to be approved by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) whose mission is to determine if an annexation proposal guarantees the proposed area can supply public services. Every five years LAFCO must update its "Spheres of Influence" of cities in the County. The Santa

Maria Sphere of Influence includes most of Orcutt. LAFCO, according to the website, is composed of three representatives from the cities in Santa Barbara County, three County Supervisors (4th District Supervisor Bob Nelson is an alternate), three representatives from special districts such as Los Alamos and Casmalia, and two public members.

According to Santa Maria Planning Division Manager Dana Eady, the City and County must, in addition to agreeing on providing public services to the proposed annexation, negotiate property tax allocations before LAFCO would approve.

The airport district is proposing a commercial development on the strawberry fields on the northwest side of Union Valley Parkway and Hwy 135.

Steve Southwick reporting

Planes of Fame Airport Museum Coming to Santa Maria Airport

After several months of speculation, the operations at the Santa Barbara Airport, was Planes of Fame Aviation Museum, with more than 160 vintage aircrafts, more than 35 in flying condition, has announced it is expanding from Chino, California, to the Santa Maria Airport. The museum will be located next to the Radisson hotel.

On a 23-acre site, the museum is building a multi-phase project that in the first phase, will include display hangers, maintenance and restoration facilities, and an events center.

According to its website, "The Planes of Fame air Museum will be a premier aviation museum recognized for its flying aircraft, quality educational experiences and unique collections."

Jane Hinton is Director of Development for Planes of Fame. "All our planes are historic," she says. "We have aircraft from World Wars 1 and 2, through the jet age to the 'landing on the moon' period."

Hinton says Chris Hastert, former airport manager of the local airport now directing instrumental in the choice of Santa Maria. "He made us very welcome. He assisted in the negotiations and was a big factor in our decision." Hastert maintains an airplane at Santa Maria.

Hinton is often asked, "Why are we leaving Chino." She says there are no plans to shut down the museum at Chino. "When the museum first opened its Chino location in the 70's, it was surrounded by agriculture and enjoyed open uncongested airspace. Growth in the Inland Empire has led to a significant increase in air traffic as well as dense housing tracts and industrial complexes being built where there were once open fields. These are no longer ideal flying conditions."

The Museum is home to a great many artifacts, memorabilia, uniforms, and documents, most of which are not on public display due to inadequate display spaces. The expansion, Hinton insists, will make these collections more visible and accessible to



Artist rendering of proposed museum.

students, scholars, and the public.

According to its website, The airspace around Santa Maria Airport provides the open space required for flying demonstrations, practicing aerobatic maneuvers, and offering aircraft rides. It also provides two runways and a large ramp that can support airshow operations.

In a press release, Dave Hinton, Museum President said, "Annually, the museum's 25 flight program aircraft perform in over a dozen air shows, provide memorial fly-overs, give rides, and are regularly used in photography

and film work, such as the recently released film Devotion. These types of programs are effective in inspiring interest in aviation as a career path and have long been valued by the aerospace industry and the military."

"The Santa Maria Airport is an ideal location for an auxiliary base to support our flight operations. It is only about an hour's flight from Chino Airport allowing us to easily rotate aircraft between the two locations.' Dave Hinton continues, "We believe flying our historic aircraft is a great way to honor our veterans and inspire young people's interest in

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Orcutt News for Orcutt Folks

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Affordable Housing Project Behind St. Joseph Awaiting County Approval

After calling the project incomplete in December, Santa Barbara County Planning and Development is expecting to receive a resubmittal of project plans for a 58-unit affordable housing project at 1331 East Foster Road, behind St. Joseph High School near Highway 101. The three-story residential community would consist of studios and one-, two-, and three-bedroom units.

According to the project description, the units will be available to lower income applicants as determined by Housing and Development (HUD) guidelines for residents of Santa Barbara County. The development is being submitted under the guidelines of Senate Bill 35 which went into effect in January of 2018 as part of a 15-bill housing package to address the state's affordable

housing shortage. Santa Barbara County has not made sufficient progress towards its allocation of affordable housing needs and thus is subject to the provisions of the bill. Families and individuals would be subject to income limits to qualify for rental units.

According to planner Shannon Reece, smaller structures (less than 120 square feet) were not shown on the original plans and the project has been called incomplete. She expects that the developer, AMG Capital of Encino, will submit updated plans.

Steve Southwick reporting







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Orcutt Library is \$5 Million Dollars Closer to a New Home



This gate welcomed visitors to the Orcutt Branch library in the 1930s.

The first library that served Orcutt patrons during the 1930's was located in a house at 200 South Broadway at the corner of Clark Avenue in Old Town Orcutt where a mobile home park is now.

Close to 100 years ago, a large metal gate (see picture) opened and closed for scores of Orcutt folks entering the small white building during the depression. The same gate in on display at the current library in the Orcutt Union Plaza at 175 South Broadway, just a stone's throw away from its first location. Along with the original gate, a collection of Old Orcutt historical photos greets visitors as they enter the 4000 square foot library.

The location of the Orcutt branch, administered by the City of Santa Maria Public Library, has jumped around the Orcutt community the past several decades. For years the library was situated in the Oak Knolls shopping center next to Oak Knolls Hardware.

The current leased location in the Orcutt Union Plaza has been the home for about ten years.

Another change is in the works. Fourth District County Supervisor Bob Nelson



This gate welcomed visitors to the Orcutt Branch library in the 1930s and is now on display at the current library. (photo courtesy Calif. State Library Archives).

says that thanks to private donations, contributions by the County, and two million federal dollars from the 1.7 trillion dollar federal budget passed by Congress and signed by President Biden in December, there is a total of 5 million dollars set aside for a stand-alone library somewhere in Orcutt.

Library Director Dawn Jackson, who has

Cuyama, says there is an absolute need. "There are recognized library space standards to serve communities of various sizes. In its leased space and in a growing community, Orcutt certainly qualifies for needed additional space."

As to where the new library will be located and when it will be operable. Supervisor Nelson says

worked as librarian for the Santa

Maria Public Library for almost

10 years, including oversight

of its branches in Orcutt, Guadalupe, Los Alamos, and

has to where the new horary will be located and when it will be operable, Supervisor Nelson says that he will be happy to make the announcement as soon as details are finalized. "I am excited about

the prospect of a permanent library and community center for the town of Orcutt and the progress we have made so far. The work of those in our area, Congressman Carbajal and our office is ensuring our tax dollars beneift our families for the long-term."

Steve Southwick reporting



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Orcutt Senior Housing Project

Bringing Students and Seniors Together

"I am not aware of any other district in the state that has a collaborative relationship with a private organization to provide an intergenerational opportunity that affects everybody in the community." .

Dr. Holly Edds, Superintendent, Orcutt Union School District

In December, after years of planning, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the Ranch at Orcutt Senior Housing Development on an almost 10 acre parcel on school district property next to the Oasis Senior Center on Soares Ave.

An objective of the project is to bring students to the senior center and provide a learning experience to seniors and students.

Dr. Edds indicates computer science principles and cyber security, currently being offered at Orcutt Academy High School, will provide help for the elderly on how to not fall prey to identity theft and help them troubleshoot computer issues.

The district is hoping to offer classes in hopitality, recreation and the medical



Artist rendering of project looking south from Soares Ave.

fields in partnership with the project to provide services to seniors and learning opportunities for students.

The multi-level senior residential complex

will offer a 115-bed residential care facility. In addition, there will be 63 senior independent living units including cottages with four plexes and a duplex, a day care facility for children, a

private recreational center and a small park adjacent to a neighborhood park. There will be housing for up to 40 employees.

Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Sandy Knight says the district expects to receive about \$200,000 annually from the lease of the property.

Joe Dana is the Assistant Superintendent for curriculum. He concurs with Dr. Edds, "We envision bands and choirs performing at the center. We envision students interviewing the elderly for oral histories. The Ranch will be a wonderful opportunity for those who reside there." And, looking out the window from his office at the site of the huge project, Dana, who began his Orcutt educational career decades ago after attending local elementary and high schools and writing for the Santa Maria Times, wistfully said, "maybe even me."

Developers are about 18 months from groundbreaking.

Steve Southwick reporting







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In The Trenches With New Santa Barbara County Animal Services Director



Sarah Aguilar, new Santa Babara County Animal Services Director with Jacob, who recently found a forever home.

The new Director of Santa Barbara County Animal Services (SBCAS), Sarah Aguilar, was up 24 hours straight during the January 9 flooding. Sarah walked in the mud with a chorus of loud barking in the background, describing how the shelters made room for evacuees. She made a plea on FaceBook for people to foster, even if only for 2 or 3 days.

'Give them a break from all this noise!"

Aguilar comes to us with a rich background in animal rescue, fostering, and the philosophy of 'no-kill'. She started in 2014 as Ventura's first Foster Coordinator and studied in Austin, Texas, "where 'no-kill' was developed." Austin currently has a 94 percent live-release rate," she says, meaning that only terminal and dangerous animals are euthanized.

In Ventura, Aguilar built the most extensive foster program in the country, placing over 3,000 pets a year into foster care, before becoming Deputy Director of Pima Animal Care in Tucson, Arizona, and increasing its live release rate to 94 percent. During COVID she became Director of a program called "Stay Home and Foster" where 86,000 people registered to foster countrywide. Post-COVID, she moved to Austin, Texas, as "Senior-Director of Pets Alive!, the nonprofit that made Austin the pinnacle of 'No-Kill'."

"My experience leading large innovative organizations coupled with the variety of communities I've served will enable SBCAS to exceed the expectations of people and pets throughout Santa Barbara County," Aguilar explained. Santa Barbara County oversees about 5,000 pets annually with services including housing strays, community safety,

vaccine and microchip services, neuter/spay assistance, licensing, and supporting pet owners to decrease abandonment through partnerships that help fund fences, food, and with medical and behavioral assistance.

Aguilar enthusiastically works with rescue organizations and partners. She says there are quarterly meetings with at least nine established groups covering guinea pigs to horses. She welcomes volunteers for everything from handling animals, cleaning, and enrichment, to marketing and administration for things such as photography, website optimaztion, and data entry. She especially calls out for "fosters" to give animals a break from noise, crowding, and to give them a home experience.

Foster Road shelter live visits are available for meet-and-greets from noon to 4:45PM (hours to be expanded soon). "If you are interested in a rabbit, cat, guinea pig or dog, our staff and volunteers will be happy to find the best match for your lifestyle," says Aguilar. When asked to pose with the Foster Road shelter resident who most needed a home, Aguilar chose Jacob, a year old husky. Jacob, recently adopted, had been kenneled for twenty plus hours daily since early September. In the exercise pen, he ran with abandon. "If I take my dog to the beach or

hiking, spend a short time teaching basic commands or tricks, they won't have all this pent up energy," Aguilar explains. "And for those afraid of trying a young exuberant dog, it doesn't mean you have to be a marathon runner or have a big backyard; a couple of walks for physical exercise intermixed with a few short training sessions for mental work is enough." After the work-out, she lead Jacob to her office for some non-kennel R&R while she worked.

Aguilar is pleased that the City of Santa Maria renewed its long-held lease with the County for, among many reasons, ease of finding a lost pet.

Her message to Orcutt; "We are enthusiastic about the future. Our plan is to continue to develop programming, expand resources for families with pets including microchip and vaccine clinics with CARE4Paws and interactive opportunities including training and Camp Hope (Camp Hope is a children's summer camp teaching animal responsibility)."

To volunteer at the Foster Rd shelter sign up online: https://www.countyofsb.org/1549/ Volunteers. Santa Barbara County Animal Services is located at 548 West Foster Road.

Katy Jacobson reporting



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Orcutt Schools Update

February 25 OCAF Gala Promises Fun Evening for a Worthy Cause

Dr. Holly Edds, Superintendent, OUSD

Since 2002, the Orcutt Children's Arts Foundation (OCAF) has been a powerful force in support of arts education in the Orcutt Union School District. OCAF provides funding for programs in music, visual arts, theater, and dance that for many students are the most enjoyable aspect of school. The nonprofit also plans events, such as the OCAF Chalk Festival, that involve local families in the arts.

Next month, OCAF invites everyone in our community to support its mission. The 2023 OCAF Gala is planned for Saturday, February 25, at the Radisson Hotel in Santa Maria, and it promises a good time for OCAF's very good cause. Ticket sales and outreach to sponsors are under way,

so we would like to let you know more about this important event.

This year's OCAF Gala is taking a '60s theme, as the evening will conclude with attendees dancing to music from the popular Beatles tribute band "Unfinished With the Beatles." Other Gala highlights include performances by band and theater students, silent and live auctions, and dinner and dessert served up by the Radisson.

"The Gala is our biggest fund-raiser, and we encourage everyone to come," says Melanie Waffle, president of the OCAF board. "We have not been able to have a Gala since before the pandemic (in 2020), so it is important for our friends to come out and support this event."

Tickets for the OCAF Gala are \$125 each and can be purchased at the website orcuttarts.com/2023gala. Sponsorships can be purchased on the same website. For more information on the Gala, contact OCAF Executive Director Lee Ann Luongo by email at lluongo@orcutt-schools.net or 805-938-8966.

"We hope to have a wonderful turnout at the Gala," says Waffle. "It's going to be awesome to have everyone on their feet clapping, dancing, and celebrating both our arts and our community."

Superintendent Dr. Holly Edds can be contacted by phone at 938-8900 or by e-mail at hedds@orcutt-schools. net. She can be followed on Twitter at @hce101.

Planes of Fame

continued from page 1

aerospace and the importance it has played in world history."

Kerry Fenton, interim General Manager of the Santa Maria Airport District, says she is thrilled to have Planes of Fame expanding to Santa Maria. "We partnered with Planes of Fame to bring back the AirFest in October and look foreward to working with them on future airshows and educational programs."

Fenton says attendance at the AirFest brought people from 13 countries and 31 different states. Jane Hinton says that becaue of the Central Coast location and draw of tourists, Planes of Fame is anticipating that locating to Santa Maria will increase tourism and will be a benefit to the local community.

To date, Planes of Fame has raised over \$7.5 million, more than 60 percent of its \$12 million capital campaign goal. A generous benefactor has lent support to the SMX Campus capital campaign by agreeing to match new campaign donations dollar for dollar up to \$1,000,000.

There has been no date set for groundbreaking. Jane Hinton says, "if all goes well, we hope to be open to the public in 2025."

Steve Southwick reporting





Altrusa Donations to Orcutt Non-Profits

Altrusa International Foundation has awarded the Santa Maria Library a cycle one grant for youth STEAM Literacy Kits in the amount of \$3,688 for the Orcutt, Los Alamos and Guadalupe Libraries. The Altrusa Club of Santa Maria submitted the grant application to the Altrusa International Foundation for the purchase of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Math) kits to be used by students of all grade levels. The hands-on problem-solving based learning kits are designed to engage students in experiential learning, collaboration, and work through the creative process. This is only the

first cycle of funding a second cycle of funding will include the Cuyama Library later in the year. The Santa Maria Library will work with the branch libraries staff to enable them to assist the students with the STEAM Kits.

In addition, Altrusa gave a grant to the Oasis Senior Center to continue their lunch program at a reduced rate for seniors into this year for \$1,500 and over \$25,000 to the Oasis Senior Center Building Fund. The Orcutt Academy Dance Team has received funding to attend dance workshops and competitions for two years.

Community Events

To submit your community event, email 50 words or less to info@orcuttpioneer.com by the second Wednesday of the month. Be sure to include, in this order, the name of the event, location, time, a short description and contact information.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Friends of Orcutt Library BOOK SALE: February 4th, 10am-1:30pm. Books, DVDs, CDs, Games and more! All proceeds go to support your local Orcutt Library.

Volunteer Opportunities: Friends of Orcutt Library need a Secretary and Parliamentarian at board meetings one hour each month. Email Carol Gregor at cgregor3@comcast.net.

10th Annual Knights of Columbus St Patricks Day Car Show will be held at St Louis de Montfort Church, Saturday March 11 from 10-3. Sposors, vendors, and cars wanted. Visit kofccarshow.com for information.

Friends of Orcutt Library need to fill 2 Board positions: Secretary and Parliamentarian. For more information: cgregor3@comast.net

Want to learn more about Magic? Join the local Magicians Club, Central Coast Conjurers. Contact Tom Becker, send text message to (805) 720-1164. We meet one evening a month.

MONTHLY OR WEEKLY EVENTS

50+ CLUB LUNCHEON, at St Louis De Montfort Church Hall at 11:30AM on the second Thursday of the month. Event is catered with nominal charge. For reservations call Irene at 934-2511.

AA (or Alcoholics Anonymous). If you want to drink, that's your business. If you want to stop, that's ours. Meetings Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 6:30PM Orcutt Presbyterian Church. General information and other meeting times and places, 925-3782.

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS AND DISFUNCTIONAL FAMILIES (www. adultchildren.org) meets on Thur, Fri, Sat, and Sun. Contact Kim at (805) 714-6908.

AGAPE School of Christion Education now enrolling K-12 sliding scale (805) 614-9292.

ALL AMERICA CITY QUILT GUILD meets at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 4380 Orcutt Rd. on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm except March and July. Info: aacquilters@gmail.com or 805.448.6276.

ALTRUSA OF THE CENTRAL COAST meets at 6PM on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. Altrusa is an international non-profit organization of men and women that strives to make our local communities better through leadership, partnership and service. For more information and meeting location call our president at 805 478-9243 or go to our website: www.altrusaofthecentralcoast.org.

ALL YOU CAN EAT BREAKFAST at The OASIS Center, 420 Soares Ave, Old Orcutt on the second Saturday of each month, 7:45-10am. Adult members: \$7.00, Non-members: \$8.00, Children under 10: \$5.00.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 534 is now open to all members Thursday 3-9, Friday 3-10PM, Saturday noon-8PM, Sunday noon-6PM, Monday 3-8PM, Closed Tuesday and Wednesdays.

ANGELS FOSTER CARE is looking for families in Santa Maria and Orcutt who want to make a difference in the life of a local foster baby or toddler. There are approximately 350 children in foster care in Santa Barbara County. About 40% of those children are under the age of six and roughly 75% live in and around Santa Maria. We want to ensure there is a stable family ready for every infant and toddler who needs a home. To learn more about becoming an Angels Foster Care parent, please visit www. angelsfostercare.org or call 805-884-0012.

BEADING at The OASIS Center, 420 Soares Ave, Old Orcutt on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month, 9:00-12:00pm.

BENT AXLE CAR CLUB is welcoming new members! Do you have a pre-1973 Americanmade car and would like to socialize with us

Classified Ads

Sell items for free. Free ads can only be accepted via email to info@orcuttpioneer.com with "classified" in the subject line. 25 word limit. All ads must be received by the second Thursday of the month and will appear on the fourth Thursday of the month. Business ads only \$25/25 words. Mail payments for business ads to Orcutt Pioneer, PO Box 2545, Orcutt CA 93457.

VENDORS WANTED for St Patricks Day Car Show March 11 at St Louis de Montfort Church. Visit kofccarshow.com for forms and information.

Lawn Care. Liability insured, bi-monthly residential & commercial, one-time cleanup, miscellaneous jobs, weed clearing, free estimates. Jim Reid 805-938-1402 Lic #36524

Wanted: Model A Ford Cars, Parts, Projects. Let me help clean out your garage. Jay McCord 805-598-8133

Shadowsfund, Senior and Pit Bull Rescue in Lompoc is looking for volunteers and dog walkers. Shadowsfund@gmail.com

Monthly SUDOKU puzzles (either Tough, Challenging or Advanced) on YouTube - Search SUbingDOKU for videos that also include Step-by-Step puzzle solutions

4 SALE GE over the range microwave, stainless, new never used or installed. Waranty good until April 2023. retail is \$258, asking \$175. Rich, 805-868-5582.

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Friends of Orcutt Library need to fill 2 Board positions: Secretary and Parliamentarian. For more information: cgregor3@ comast.net

Day bed-\$60; Queen Mattress Frame-\$15; 35"W,19"T,17"D, TV Cabinet with TV- \$25; Skeet Thrower, \$20. Mens Electra Towne bike, \$90. 805-332-3027

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Community Events continued

(cruising, eating and having fun)? We also put on a car show the 3rd weekend of July. Ann McKindley 805-714-6111

BSA Troop 87 in Orcutt. Enjoy outdoors camping, hiking, fishing, snow & water sports, etc. Scouting provides an opportunity to try new things, build self-confidence, provide service to others, and reinforce ethical standards that improve relationships, family lives, and values. ronterry4543@gmail.com

BSA Orcutt Scout Troop 91–Inviting interested families and children ages 10-17. Intrigued about the natural world? Like to learn about camping, hiking, backpacking? Build selfesteem, make new friends and learn leadership skills? Meetings are every Tuesday 7pm at The Hut, in Pioneer Park. Contact Scoutmaster Jim at Calahane@aol.com or 805-698-8665.

BILINGUAL WORSHIP SERVICES at Christian Life Church every Sunday at 1PM, Oasis Senior Center located at 420 Soares Ave., Old Town Orcutt, CA. 93455. Pastor Sam & Sylvia Orozco, 719-660-9789. Looking forward to meeting you!

CAMPING LOVE OF ADVENTURE is a nonprofit single adult camping club. We meet the second week of each month on Wednesday. Information: Elaine 805-937-5357

CENTRAL COAST BEACH BOARDWALKERS WALKING CLUB. Call Club President Ty Fredriks at 805-714-1552 for information.

CENTRAL COAST CHORDSMEN invite those who would like to sing or would like to learn to participate with them. Call 937-7960 for information.

CENTRAL COAST CORVETTE CLUB open to Corvette Owners and Enthusiasts. meetings at 7PM on the first Thursday of the month @ Home Motors, showroom lobby at 1313 E. Main St., Santa Maria. Info: call Mike @ 805-934-3948 or Mike @805-709-6221

CENTRAL COAST COMPUTER CLUB meets at OASIS Center Main Hall, 420 Soares Ave., on the third Tuesday of the month at 6PM with Q&A workshop session, coffee and cookies. Main program presentation begins at 7PM. Information: Mark Green 602-326-6828.

CENTRAL COAST CRUISE NIGHTS invites all car collectors to join us on the 4th Saturday of the month. We meet at the Golden Donut in Orcutt, depart at 6pm, and drive into Old Orcutt. Afterwards, grab a bite to eat and support our local businesses.

CENTRAL COAST SAMS RV GROUP meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month for a 3 day "campout". We enjoy planned tours, good food and fellowship at local campgrounds within 100 miles of the Central Coast. We welcome new members. Contact Faye Cardoza 805-481-1047.

CENTRAL COAST SUDOKU CLUB – Ready to take your SUDOKU solving skills to the next level? Monthly "step-by-step" solutions to "Tough" puzzles in a "Skype" game format. Email BobG at stepbystepsudoku@verizon.net for more information. For examples, search YouTube for SUbingDOKU.

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