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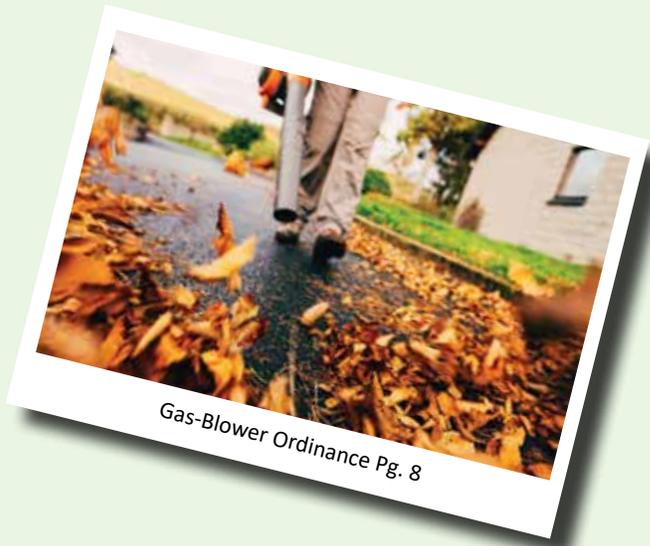
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A Message from the Mayor

Working for You: How Councilmembers Advocate for Monte Sereno

Being a Monte Sereno City Councilmember means more than just making decisions within city limits—it also involves representing our community on a number of regional boards, committees, and Joint Powers Authorities (JPAs) throughout Santa Clara County. Councilmembers serve as your voice in these organizations, advocating for policies and programs that directly affect our daily lives—from clean energy and transportation to library services, waste management, and stormwater protection. Their participation ensures that Monte Sereno has a seat at the table, helping shape decisions that positively impact our residents and preserve the quality of life we all value.

At the end of each City Council meeting, councilmembers report back on the activities and decisions of these organizations, sharing how they affect—or could affect—Monte Sereno, so that the community stays informed and engaged. Not only will you hear reports from these organizations, but there are also multiple groups, committees and events councilmembers attend and report back on. It's a great way to keep in touch in what's going on in our community and region.

Here are some of the organizations where Monte Sereno councilmembers represent our city. These boards, commissions, and JPAs play a vital role in shaping policies and services that affect our community—from transportation and energy to sanitation and public libraries. You can view the full list of organizations on Monte Sereno's official website.

Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)

ABAG coordinates regional planning, including housing mandates. Monte Sereno recently **appealed its RHNA housing allocation**, arguing that the city's limited land, wildfire risk, and lack of transit access make the assigned 193 units unfeasible: <https://montesereno.civicweb.net/document/7561/>. This appeal reflects the council's commitment to responsible and realistic growth.

Santa Clara County Library District

Councilmembers advocate for library services that benefit Monte Sereno residents. In FY 2023–24, the district hosted **5,895 programs** with over **256,000 attendees**, and provided **hot lunches** during the Summer Reading Challenge: <https://scclld.org/about-jpa/>. These services enrich the community's educational and cultural life.

League of California Cities – Peninsula Division

This division supports legislative advocacy and regional collaboration. In 2024, the League backed **AB 3209**, creating **Retail Crime Restraining Orders** to combat organized theft: <https://www.calcities.org/>. Monte

Sereno's participation ensures its voice is heard in shaping statewide policies.

Santa Clara County Cities Association

Councilmembers collaborate on shared challenges like housing and transportation. Through the **Santa Clara County Planning Collaborative**, they contributed to a **countywide housing element update** and developed shared resources for **Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)**: <https://citiesassociation.org/planning/>. This helps streamline housing solutions across jurisdictions.

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Policy Advisory Committee

Councilmembers advise on transportation planning and funding. Monte Sereno participated in the **Countywide Local Roads Safety Plan**, which identifies dangerous intersections and recommends countermeasures to reduce collisions: <https://shm.to/6pqCqUW>. This work supports safer travel for all residents.

Santa Clara Valley Water District

Councilmembers advocate for water reliability and environmental stewardship. The district is currently upgrading aging infrastructure, including **pipeline reliability projects** and improvements to the **Rinconada Water Treatment Plant**, which serves Monte Sereno and neighboring cities: <https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/infrastructure-improvement-projects>.

Silicon Valley Animal Control Authority (SVACA)

SVACA provides animal services including sheltering, licensing, and education. In 2025, they launched "**Clear the Shelters**", offering reduced or free adoption fees: <https://www.svaca.com/>. They also expanded school outreach programs and maintained a **99% live release rate**, reflecting their commitment to humane care.

West Valley Recycles Board of Directors

This board manages solid waste and recycling services for Monte Sereno and neighboring cities. In 2025, they approved a **new franchise agreement** to improve recycling efficiency and added a contractor to the **Construction & Demolition recycling program**. They also launched a **graphic design and outreach initiative** to educate residents on proper waste sorting and sustainability: <https://westvalleyrecycles.com/board-of-directors/>.

Silicon Valley Clean Energy

Councilmembers help guide clean energy programs that serve Monte Sereno. In the past year, residents received **\$94,900 in on-bill savings**, **\$17,600 in solar surplus payments**, and **\$38,500 in rebates** for electric home upgrades: <https://svcleanenergy.org/>. Monte Sereno also achieved a **27% reduction in energy and transportation emissions** compared to 2015.

West Valley Stormwater Authority

This authority protects local waterways from pollution and runoff. In FY 2025–26, Monte Sereno is implementing **Best Management Practices (BMPs)** for street maintenance, graffiti removal, and storm drain inspections: <https://www.cleancreeks.org/>. The city also supports **Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI)** planning, including rain gardens and permeable surfaces to reduce runoff.

West Valley Sanitation District Board

Councilmembers oversee wastewater collection and infrastructure upgrades. In 2024, the district invested **\$3 million** in capital improvements, including **rehabilitating 5,200 feet of sewer mains** near Vasona Lake County Park: <https://www.wvwdca.gov/>. These upgrades ensure reliable service and environmental protection for Monte Sereno residents.

Burton Craig, Mayor



The Silicon Valley Animal Control Authority (SVACA) proudly provides round-the-clock animal care and control services for Santa Clara, Campbell, Monte Sereno, Los Gatos, and Mountain View. Their dedicated team cares for sick, injured, lost, and abandoned animals, working every day to ensure these animals receive the compassion and care they deserve.

SVACA also offers humane education programs, including school and camp visits, as well as field trips, hosted at their cageless Animal Care Center in Santa Clara. SVACA has a community cat trap-neuter-return program to help manage local feline populations, and through their TransFUR Program, they transfer in animals from high-volume shelters, giving these animals the chance to find loving homes in local communities.

Interested in getting involved at SVACA? There are many opportunities! SVACA welcomes volunteers ages 13+ for animal socialization and community events, as well as

fosters to help care for underage kittens until they're ready for adoption. The Kiddies to Kitties program invites students ages 6-12 to visit their Animal Care Center for free on Wednesdays from 3:30–5:00 p.m. to read to adoptable kittens.

In addition to adopting dogs, cats, and rabbits, supporters can make an impact by donating to SVACA's Animal Assistance Fund, which provides specialized veterinary care for sick and injured animals, or by purchasing much-needed supplies from their Amazon Wishlist.

SVACA is located at 3370 Thomas Road, Santa Clara, CA. They are open for adoptions seven days a week from 12:00 to 5:00 PM. To get involved or learn more about their programs and services, please visit www.svaca.com.

Share your life. Change a life. Adopt for life.



General Plan Update Adoption Draft Health & Safety Element Is Now Available Online

The document is an update of the existing Health & Safety Element to respond to updates in State law. It identifies the city's fire, earthquake, flood risks, hazardous materials, noise and air quality issues, discusses emergency and disaster preparedness as well as climate risk. The element includes identification and analysis of emergency evacuation routes and a climate vulnerability assessment.

This document also proposes updated goals, policies, and actions based on the 2008 General Plan, state law requirements, the joint study session with the Site and Architectural Commission and City Council on June 24, 2025, comments from the public, and input from stakeholders such as the California Geological Survey, as well as your previous survey feedback.

The project team presented this adoption draft to the Site and Architectural Commission for a recommendation to City Council for adoption on Wednesday, October 8, at 7:00 p.m. Following this, the draft was scheduled to be brought before the City Council for adoption on Tuesday, December 2 at 7:00 p.m.

The project team will begin working on the remaining elements after adoption of the Health & Safety Element. The adoption of the remaining General Plan elements is planned for summer 2026. During this process, the Office of the State Fire Marshal will review the adopted Health and Safety Element and present it to the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The schedule can be viewed on the project website.

You can review this document and more on the project website and stay up to date on the project by signing up for the General Plan Update newsletter.

Project Materials:

www.monteserenogpu.com/project

Project Calendar:

www.monteserenogpu.com/calendar

General Plan Update Website:

www.monteserenogpu.com

Newsletter Sign-Up:

www.monteserenogpu.com/newsletter

KCAT TV
Local Media Partner



KCAT TV is grateful to the City of Monte Sereno for its ongoing support and collaboration. KCAT and Monte Sereno are creating meaningful media opportunities that directly benefit residents and strengthen community connections.

The impact is clear: this year, 20% of KCAT's summer campers have come from Monte Sereno (up from 14% last year), 3 of the 8 interns are residents, and 5 of the 10 KCAT Board members call Monte Sereno home. In fact, 35% of the OktoberFest volunteers live here, and more adults 55+ are engaging with KCAT than ever before.

KCAT is also thrilled to have worked with the Monte Sereno Youth Commissioners, who will be launching their own podcast this fall—a true reflection of youth voices in action!

KCAT is proud to be Monte Sereno's local media partner, from producing shows and training young creators to collaborating with *The Outlook* to reach over 32,000 homes. And who knows, wouldn't it be fun to see the former post office transformed into a community podcast studio for all?



NAME CHANGE ON PROPERTY TAX BILLS

CLEAN CREEKS START HERE



For property owners in Monte Sereno, note the following change to your property tax bill. In 2025, the West Valley Clean Water Authority became the West Valley Stormwater Authority to better represent its role in protecting local creeks and waterways from stormwater pollution. There is no change to the annual stormwater property fee of \$16.58.

<u>Previously</u>	<u>Now</u>
Agency Name:	Agency Name:
WV Clean Water Authority	West Valley Stormwater Authority
SA Number: 1010	SA Number: 1050
Description: Storm Sewer	Description: Stormwater Srvc Charge

For more information about the West Valley Stormwater Authority, visit www.CleanCreeks.org



Stormwater may be out of sight, but its effects are all around us. For over 30 years, the West Valley Stormwater Authority has supported Monte Sereno, Campbell, Saratoga, and Los Gatos, in protecting local waterways, meeting state and federal regulations, and reducing pollution.

Our new video highlights how local collaboration, smart investments, and everyday actions help ensure cleaner creeks, healthier communities, and long-term environmental stewardship. Find the video at <https://youtu.be/fXMwjgnAhN8>



Scan to view video

HALLOWEEN SAFETY



- 🔥 Use a battery-powered candle or glow-stick in jack-o-lanterns
- 🔥 Prevent falls by avoiding long trailing costumes & masks that limit ability to see when walking
- 🔥 Provide a clear & well-lit path for trick-or-treaters to prevent falls or twisted ankles
- 🔥 Keep decorations a safe distance from open flames and other heat sources like lightbulbs and heaters
- 🔥 Cross at crosswalks or street corners and not between parked cars that may block the view of oncoming drivers

HAVE A Sewer Problem?



www.wvsdca.gov
 100 E. Sunyooks Ave.
 Campbell, CA 95008

CALL US FIRST! Available **24/7**
(408) 378-2407
 AFTER HOURS
(408) 299-2507

Annual Pavement Improvement Project

To maintain and continuously improve city streets, the City of Monte Sereno plans for and manages an annual pavement improvement project. This project is a part of the Capital Improvement Program and is funded by several sources, including Santa Clara County Measure B tax and State gas tax.

The 2025 Annual Pavement Improvement Project took place during May and June this year along three segments of the city's roadway network. The first phase included the sealing of existing cracks and localized pavement repairs in preparation for the slurry seal treatment. The second and final phase involved grinding off existing deteriorated asphalt concrete, plac-

ing new asphalt concrete, and installing new pavement striping, markings, and signs. During the various phases of the project, parking and lane restrictions were in place. Below is the list of streets that received new treatment:

1. Twin Creeks Road from Aquinas Creek Bridge to Tamson Court – Slurry Seal & Striping
2. Twin Creeks Road from Tamson Court to Via Caballero – Slurry Seal & Striping
3. West Ellenwood Avenue from Ellenwood Avenue to the end – Mill and Overlay

Here are some pictures of the streets, before and after this year's project.



Twin Creeks Before



Twin Creeks After



W Ellenwood Ave Before



W Ellenwood After

Flock Cameras

In January 2025, the Monte Sereno City Council approved an agreement with Flock Safety Group for the installation and maintenance of 19 automated license plate reader (ALPR) cameras. The cameras have recently been installed around the City.

The cameras detect and take still-images of vehicles and license plates. They do not detect or take pictures of people, record video, or capture the speed which

vehicles are traveling. The images are only available to the Los Gatos Monte Sereno Police Department (LSMSPD) and by other police departments with which they share the information.

More information is on the Monte Sereno Transparency Portal at:

<https://transparency.flocksafety.com/monte-sereno-ca-pd>





Picnic in the Park

Monte Sereno hosted a city-wide barbecue for residents on Sunday, August 24, 2025. Everyone enjoyed delicious food, fun activities, and partner agency booths. We hope to see you at next year's event!



Citizen of the Year Carl Guardino

The Monte Sereno City Council named Carl Guardino its Citizen of the Year on August 5, 2025 and Mayor Burton Craig presented him with a certificate at the annual city picnic on August 24, 2025. Santa Clara County Supervisor Margaret Abe-Koga also presented Guardino with a certificate. This award is intended to spur community engagement in Monte Sereno and honor an outstanding citizen.

Guardino served on the California Transportation Commission for four four-year terms. According to the nomination form completed by Jo-Anne Sinclair, Guardino helped push for several successful ballot measures regarding transportation and housing. He also founded the San Jose Turkey Trot, also known as the Applied Materials Silicon Valley Turkey Trot, which was deemed the largest Thanksgiving Day run in 2024. Guardino also coined the



Stars and Strides run, which contributed over \$1 million to Valley Health Foundation. He previously served as vice president of government affairs at Tarana Wireless and as the CEO of Silicon Valley Leadership Group.

Sinclair said, "Citizen of the Year is someone who not only talks about making a difference but lives it every day, and Carl invests his time and energy into making our community a better place through his ongoing volunteering, which he does a tremendous amount of."

Former Mayor Don Perry spoke highly of Guardino's efforts to help make sure a sidewalk along Highway 9 was built for pedestrians and bicyclists while he was a Caltrans commissioner.

Monte Sereno is proud to honor Carl Guardino as its Citizen of the Year.



City of Monte Sereno
18041 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road
Monte Sereno, CA 95030-4299

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SAN JOSE, CA
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Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers to be Prohibited in 2026

In October 2023, the City Council adopted revised regulations for leaf blowers used in Monte Sereno. The new allowed hours of operation for all leaf blowers are 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday and from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Sundays and holidays. Noise generated from leaf blowers shall not exceed 65 decibels when measured at 50 feet from the equipment.

Additionally, the revised regulations prohibit the use of gas-powered leaf blowers; however, enforcement of this prohibition will not be effective until January 2026. The purpose of delaying the prohibition on gas-powered leaf blowers is to allow time for the information to be distributed to the community and for landscape professionals to obtain new equipment.

The purpose of prohibiting the use of gas-powered leaf blowers is to reduce the volume of smog-forming emissions. According to the California Air Resources Board, the volume of smog-forming emissions from gas-powered leaf blowers, lawn mowers, hedge trimmers, edgers, and other small off-road engines (SORE) has surpassed emissions from light-duty passenger cars and is projected to be nearly twice those of passenger cars by 2031. A commercial operator using a backpack leaf blower for one hour generates the same smog-forming emissions as a car driving 1,100 miles.

In October 2021, Governor Newsom signed AB 1346 which will ban the sale of new gas-powered leaf blowers, lawn mowers, hedge trimmers, edgers, and other SORE starting with the units manufactured in the model year 2024. Although this law will ban the manufacturing and sale of gas-powered SORE equipment, the use of existing gas-powered equipment will not be restricted by this law.

City Newsletter Statement of Purpose

This is the official city newsletter to communicate current issues, services, and activities in Monte Sereno to the residents of the city — to facilitate, encourage, and improve interaction between the residents and the city government. The newsletter is published twice a year.

Graphic Designer: Michele Kwong

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SERVICE PROVIDERS

POLICE.....911
Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department
Business/Non-Emergency.....(408) 354-5257
After 5 pm(408) 354-8600
FIRE: Santa Clara County Fire Department.....911
Business/Non-Emergency.....(408) 378-4010
ANIMAL CONTROL/SHELTER
Silicon Valley Animal Control.....(408) 764-0344
GARBAGE & RECYCLING
West Valley Recycles.....(408) 283-9250
ELECTRICITY/GAS
Silicon Valley Clean Energy.....(844) 474-7823
Pacific Gas & Electric.....(800) 743-5000
ROAD OBSTRUCTIONS/ISSUES
City Streets.....(408) 354-7635
After Hours Emergency.....(408) 354-8600
Highway 9 (Caltrans).....(510) 286-4444
SEWER
West Valley Sanitation.....(408) 378-2407
After Hours Emergency.....(408) 299-2507
WATER
San Jose Water Company.....(408) 279-7900
STORM DRAIN SPILL REPORTING
West Valley Stormwater Authority.....(408) 354-5385