

Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council (CVMAC)?

The CVMAC, otherwise known as “the MAC”, is a body created in April 1981, to advise the Alameda County Board of Supervisors on the issues and concerns of Castro Valley. Since Castro Valley is not incorporated, it is basically Castro Valley’s “Un-City Council,” without fiscal authority.

What are the jurisdictional boundaries of the MAC?

The jurisdictional boundaries of the MAC are those of the Castro Valley General Plan ([link to map](#)) but the Council may also advise on matters outside the plan area that would have impacts or otherwise affect Castro Valley.

When does the MAC meet and what does it review and discuss?

The MAC meets three times every month at 6:00 p.m. at the Castro Valley Library (3600 Norbridge Ave., Castro Valley).

Land use items such as variances, site development reviews, and conditional use permits are heard by the MAC on the **second and fourth Mondays** of every month. The benefit of providing a recommendation at the initial stages of review is that a unique Castro Valley perspective is used since the MAC is made up solely of Castro Valley community members. The MAC’s recommendations are forwarded to the decision-making body, which may be the Board of Zoning Adjustments, the Planning Commission, or the Planning Director. These decisions can be appealed to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

MAC meetings on the **third Monday** of the month focus on matters relating to public health, safety, welfare, and public works. These meetings serve as a forum where residents and/or business owners can hear about issues and proposals from the County and other Castro Valley community leaders as well as bring their concerns to the MAC’s attention for assistance.

Do I have to wait until the third Monday of the month if I have a concern that I would like to bring to the MAC’s attention?

No. You are welcome to attend any MAC meeting and speak under Public Comment. The MAC will not be able to take any action at that time as the Brown Act requires public notice, but it could agendize the issue for a subsequent meeting.

Residents can send their concerns to Council members via [email](#).

How to place an item on the MAC agenda?

Contact the MAC Chair, Marc Crawford at marc.crawford@acgov.org, to place an item on the agenda.

How are the MAC's members determined?

The MAC consists of seven (7) members. Upon the nomination of the District 4 Supervisor, each member is appointed for a four year term by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. Each member must be a resident of the Plan Area, or have owned or actively operated a business in the Plan Area for at least five years prior to appointment. MAC members may not serve more than 12 years.

How much of a time commitment is there in being a MAC member?

Between preparing for the meetings, which includes reading and studying documents, visiting sites and then attending the three meetings per month, the average MAC member probably spends between 12-15 hours per month. The person serving as Chair spends considerably more time due to interacting with Castro Valley residents who contact him/her with questions or concerns and with the various County departments as well as the District 4 Supervisor. Major items such as the Climate Action Plan and the Castro Valley General Plan (both are crucial documents affecting the quality of life for the community) took an even larger time commitment (well over 40 hours each).

How can I become a MAC member?

Contact the District 4 Supervisor at (510) 272-6694 or District4@acgov.org to express an interest in being appointed. Anyone who meets the membership requirements and wishes to serve the community in the capacity of a MAC member should demonstrate a genuine interest in the community through action benefiting the community and attend MAC meetings to get an understanding of the duties and commitment.