

**Community Focus Statement E:** Strengthen the relationship between Big Bear Valley and the County of San Bernardino to increase the County’s understanding of the community.

**Action Statement E.1: Establish a Bear Valley Municipal Advisory Council as an avenue for accurate and transparent communications between local residents, Big Bear Valley leaders, and County officials.**



**Benchmark:** Establish a Municipal Advisory Council to provide a consistent and inviting community forum for the public to hear about and give comments on local and countywide topics.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** variable



Website for the Bloomington Municipal Advisory Council. Photo source: [San Bernardino County](#)

A Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) is a group of people appointed by citizens that work to create a community forum for the public to voice their opinions and obtain information on local topics. These councils also serve as advisory boards to the County Board of Supervisors on issues pertaining to their communities, although they do not make decisions on matters of policy. MAC meetings are generally attended by County officials, staff, the advisory board, and the general public. Communities throughout the county have established MACs and

have established a precedent for local MAC formation

and management. The Bear Valley communities may establish a MAC as a more effective forum for local issues and to ensure that these matters are appropriately conveyed to County government.

MAC members can also be appointed by the County Board of Supervisors and must live within the set boundaries of the community. As with other appointed or elected bodies, MAC business is carried out at public meetings, which must be noticed and have formal agendas and minutes. Meetings typically include a public comment period (where community members may speak on items not on the agenda), information items (those that do not require any action from the MAC), and action items (where the MAC can issue a recommendation on any component of an issue). MACs may also establish standing or ad hoc committees, made up of selected MAC members and/or members of the public, which may report to the MAC on particular issues.

A Bear Valley MAC could provide a more effective channel for communication between the Board of Supervisors and Bear Valley residents, given that it can be more than an hour-long drive to the usual location of board meetings. A local MAC would make it easier for community members to speak to public officials about issues that matter, and

may improve their sense of trust given that the MAC members are responsible for representing the local community rather than a vast County district.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Gather Local residents to support the creation of a MAC	Champion	Month 1	MAC of San Bernardino County <a href="http://www.morongobasinombudsman.com/government/municipal-advisory-council/2005machandbook.pdf">http://www.morongobasinombudsman.com/government/municipal-advisory-council/2005machandbook.pdf</a>
2. Draft establishing ordinance and submit to the Board of Supervisors for adoption.	Group with Supervisor's Field Representative	Month 1 – 6	Municipal Advisory Councils, Office of Planning and Research <a href="https://www.opr.ca.gov/docs/Municipal_Advisory_Councils.pdf">https://www.opr.ca.gov/docs/Municipal_Advisory_Councils.pdf</a>
3. Call for councilmember applications and select individuals to serve.	Clerk of the Board's office	Month 6 – 8	San Bernardino County MAC Handbook <a href="http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&amp;rct=j&amp;q=&amp;esrc=s&amp;source=web&amp;cd=10&amp;ved=0ahUKEwjCxP6RrOrPAhWIoD4KHTDiBAIQFghWMAk&amp;url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.morongobasinombudsman.com%2Fgovernment%2Fmunicipal-advisory-council%2F2005machandbook.pdf&amp;usg=AFQjCNGTqkvdn54fOamORBcXBVAJYwCa3Q&amp;sig2=DiMRM2GOIZp6wLD772t5oA">http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&amp;rct=j&amp;q=&amp;esrc=s&amp;source=web&amp;cd=10&amp;ved=0ahUKEwjCxP6RrOrPAhWIoD4KHTDiBAIQFghWMAk&amp;url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.morongobasinombudsman.com%2Fgovernment%2Fmunicipal-advisory-council%2F2005machandbook.pdf&amp;usg=AFQjCNGTqkvdn54fOamORBcXBVAJYwCa3Q&amp;sig2=DiMRM2GOIZp6wLD772t5oA</a>
4. Host inaugural meeting and select. Thereafter, annually select a chairman, vice chairman, and secretary.	Bear Valley Municipal Advisory Council	Month 9, annually	
5. Advise the Board of Supervisors on all matters specifically referred to the council by the Board of Supervisors and authorized by Government Code Section 31010, which may include, but is limited to, matters of public health, safety, welfare, public works, and planning.	Bear Valley Municipal Advisory Council	On-going	
6. Adopt rules, regulations, and procedures as are reasonable and appropriate for the council's activity, as specifically approved by the Board of Supervisors.	Bear Valley Municipal Advisory Council	Annually	