



**VENTURA COUNCIL  
OF GOVERNMENTS**

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, May 10, 2007**

**5:00 p.m.**

**City of Camarillo**

**Council Chambers**

**601 Carmen Drive, Camarillo, California 93010**

---

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Vice Chair Holden called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. as Chair Morehouse advised Interim Executive Director Bobkiewicz he would be late.

2. **FLAG SALUTE:** Member Young led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **ROLL CALL:**

Member Toni Young	City of Port Hueneme
Member Tom Glancy	City of Thousand Oaks
Member Jan McDonald	City of Camarillo
Member Carl Morehouse	City of San Buenaventura
Member Tom Holden	City of Oxnard
Member Linda Parks	County of Ventura
Member Miller	City of Simi Valley

**Absent:** Member Cities: Fillmore, Santa Paula and Ojai

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

5. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Member Young spoke regarding the update of the 2007 Workplan and the AB 939 Task Force. (This item was addressed at this time rather than at Consent as approved by the Vice Chair.)

Interim Executive Director Bobkiewicz responded that AB 939 Task Force refers to VCOG's role under State law as the AB 939 Task Force for Ventura County, so that VCOG as an entity plays that role. Some statutory requirements through that Task Force is to review multi-year plans dealing with recycling. If VCOG would like some information regarding legislation, it can be brought back at either the next meeting or provided off agenda.

Member Young responded that she would provide solid waste information from SCAG and send to Interim Executive Director for the next meeting.

6. **APPROVAL OF THE FINAL AGENDA:** None.

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. **Update on Implementation of 2007 Workplan:** Member Young moved to approve, Member Miller seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

8. **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

A. **Proposed FY 2007/08 Budget:** Member Young moved to adopt Resolution No. 2007-01, and voice vote was as follows:

AYES: Members McDonald; Hunter; Holden; Young; Miller; Glancy

NOES: Member Parks

ABSENT: Chair Morehouse; Members Conaway; Aguirre; and Smith

B. **Update on VCOG / Ventura County Civic Alliance (VCCA) "Compact for a Sustainable County" Project:**

Rebecca Evans, Executive Director of Ventura County Civic Alliance updated VCOG on the Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County. Meetings were held with the VCCA, VCOG members and the consultants on April 5, 2007 and May 9, 2007 at the Community Foundation with the same group.

On Friday, May 4, 2007, she presented this project to the VCTC to bring them up-to-date.

VCCA moved ahead on planning the public workshop, setting the date for Thursday, June 7, 2007, from 6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. and the location will be California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI), in the Malibu 100 Building.

Ms. Evans described how the consultants plan to lay out the meeting process and engage the participants. She also provided information as to how VCCA would work on marketing this event, such as media coverage, copies of the plan both in hard copy and electronically, and asking VCOG members to work in their own communities to extend this invitation to their constituents.

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 31, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. with consultants present to do a "run-through" of the workshop.

The draft would be available by Friday, May 11, 2007. If there are changes, it should be available by Monday, May 14, 2007.

C. **Designation of VCOG as Interagency Council on Homelessness for Ventura County:** Member Young motioned to receive updates as provided, seconded by Member Parks. Carried unanimously by voice vote.

D. **Stormwater Water Quality Funding and NPDES Permit Compliance:**

Vicki Musgrove, Maintenance Services Manager, City of Ventura provided a Power Point presentation / update of the Stormwater Quality Program.

This permit regulates MS4 discharges, which are municipal separate storm sewers—the storm drain system. Any city that has a storm drain system that carries rainwater through its system and to the waters of the United States must be regulated by these permits.

Permits were issued in 1994, the second in 2000, and the third was just issued in December 2006, which was the one discussed. This program has been a very cooperative program as water quality improvement is a top priority in the county and much effort has gone into this program that is outside the bounds of what is considered normal and focuses our resources on water quality. In 2003 Ventura had the best municipal program in the entire United States. It has been cooperative and effective.

In Ventura County, there are very structured teams—a Management Committee that includes representatives from all the ten cities—the District and the County that work together to focus the program and strategize. There are five subcommittees that take over the different areas that the group works in. Those subcommittees include members from every city, as well as any interested stakeholder that may be interested in talking on those issues.

There is a monitoring / reporting program in place that does annual reports; sampling events; micro-invertebrate sampling; and bio-assessment trend analysis where identification has been made of the pollutants of concern specific to Ventura County. A database is kept online and interested parties can view it at any time. The information kept online is done by Ventura County Watershed Protection District on behalf of all the cities, in an effort to keep costs down and help in this coordinated effort.

Environmental issues are currently in the forefront. Beachwater quality is extremely important in many cities of the county, and with global warming; all these issues are tied together. The legal challenges abound in this political climate with these permits. Each time they are issued, lawsuits are prevalent.

Regarding Ventura County land use, it is in the Los Angeles region and the people that write our permits, live and work in L.A. It is an extremely urbanized area, compared to Ventura County. Staff repeatedly asks for specificity to Ventura County because of such issues as 79% open space—only 12% of Ventura County is urban. These are urban run-off permits and are supposed to cover the run-off from urban areas—with 8% agriculture.

The Ventura Regional Board's intent is very good and wants to place the importance on water quality protection and protection of our resources. It was

apparent that when this next permit was received, and it was a ratcheting up of our current program.

The draft permit is 250 pages long and very prescriptive. Additionally, there are performance measures, which must be met. There are unrealistic timeframes; the funding requirement is that all cities have to allocate all necessary funds to comply with this order. The Regional Board is telling the Cities where to allocate these funds.

Ms. Musgrove further outlined potential costs per resident per year and indicated what future steps need to be taken, such as contacting legislators and indicated she will come back to VCOG in September 2007 to provide an update.

VCOG members agreed that it was important to work together on this permit and Chair Morehouse thanked Ms. Musgrove for the presentation and encouraged members to contact their legislators.

Motion to receive report by Member Young, seconded by Member Miller. Approved unanimously by voice vote.

- E. **2007 Legislative Committee Update:** Mina Layba, City of Thousand Oaks provided an update from the VCOG Legislative Subcommittee. The committee meets each interim month when the board does not meet, and shares individual legislative interests and determines any bills that VCOG may want to bring forward for board consideration and action.

The committee has met twice since the beginning of the VCOG term and at each meeting asks the League of California Cities' Regional Coordinator, Dave Mullinax, to provide us with current policy events within the State Legislature. Although he deemed this year as a slow legislative year, it is the first year of the biennium, new legislators are beginning the process of learning how to propose new legislation. The Governor has been very busy with efforts to establish a prison reform, the statewide health care system, and has changed the presidential primary from June to February.

The Committee also reviews legislative platforms of the National League of Cities and League of California Cities. Of special note, the committee welcomed a special guest during the first meeting—Adolfo Bailon—a Senior Field Representative of Senator Barbara Boxer's office. He reported that Senator Boxer met with members of VCTC in Washington, DC during their February visit and he learned of the Region's transportation needs. He also expressed that the Senator is the Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee Chair and she has a special focus area of global warming. She also has an interest in raising the federal return rate of California from \$.90 – \$.95 cents on the dollar to assist the state in its economy. She is also looking for ways to provide more funding to public safety for gang suppression and after school care programs via Manisha's Law.

City representatives were also able to present individual city needs to this representative to bring back to the Senator, and were advised of the Senate Appropriations process and provided appropriation forms.

Part of our legislative activities, are that we work with the League because that seems to be the main focus area that many cities use for extracting and learning about legislation that is of importance to municipalities.

The Committee uses the Legislative Matrix and works with Dave Mullinax to identify bills. It periodically receives from Assemblymember Audra Strickland legislative updates that are key issues and areas. Two other issues that came from the VCOG Administrative body was participation in SCAG. Assistant to the City Manager, Elisabeth Amador, has been doing call-ins and encouraging legislative committee staff to be part of those call-ins or to at least go to quarterly meetings, and at the June meeting will decide whether there is some interest by staff to attend those meetings to provide a Ventura County presence, or to do a call-in and be acknowledged during roll call.

Member Young commented that the League has taken no position, on SB 716 by Perata. Member Young further commented that she doesn't understand why there isn't a position of support and inquired as to whether or not there is something in the bill that is unattainable.

Ms. Layba responded that it is not necessarily unattainable; rather the Legislative Committee works with their Regional Coordinator, and has noticed that in several meetings from last year that they don't always have the same viewpoint on bills. They use the League as a platform. Ms. Layba offered to follow up and bring to the Board in June to get their approval and consent for a letter of support for this region.

Member Young responded that unless there is something that is out of line or the money is coming from the wrong places, funding is needed for transit operations.

Ms. Layba offered to research and bring a letter forth for the Chair's signature.

Member Parks commented that SB 286 accelerates the distribution of the \$2 billion in money. Ms. Layba responded that she was fairly certain that the Legislative Committee sent a letter last year on SB 286.

Member McDonald commented that their Council met May 9, 2007, and when she mentioned that she would be at VCOG May 10, the question was raised about SB 1020, which the League had not taken a position on. It was recommended by her Council that VCOG should be involved because of it being the solid waste authority. City of Camarillo took the position to strongly oppose.

Ms. Layba noted those remarks and asked VCOG if there were any other bills that their individual cities have worked directly with. The VCOG Legislative Committee works directly with the Liaison to this committee and if they would like to bring it forward for discussion or consideration, it is something that this committee would be willing to do.

Chair Morehouse commented that he and Member Glancy also sit on the Policy Committee for HCD and could take any questions VCOG has to the Policy Committee on June 29 in San Jose. He also had a question regarding AB 793 and advised others to contact Assemblymember Strickland's office if they had concerns or questions regarding same.

Chair Morehouse corrected the date of the Channel Counties Dinner to Friday, June 15 rather than the 14, at the Bacara Resort.

- F. **2007 Annual Meeting Update:** Elisabeth Amador reported that the Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 21, and thanked Member McDonald of Camarillo for arranging for the use of the Camarillo Library. As a result of being able to use the Camarillo Library, it would result in quite a savings for VCOG. "Save the Date" cards, which numbered 350, were sent in April and invitations were sent on May 10, 2007, with the assistance of City of Santa Paula staff.

The program of the evening would be a panel discussion, "Innovative Ways that Local Governments are Recruiting and Retaining Employees in Today's Marketplace."

9. **AGENCY REPORTS:**

- A. **Southern California Association of Governments:** Linda Jones, Member Relations Officer from SCAG commented that she had left information for VCOG regarding the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Housing Summit, which will be held May 24, 2007 at the Wilshire Grand Hotel, and encouraged all to attend.

Ms. Jones then introduced the new manager of the Member Relations group, Bev Parry, a former elected official for the City of Brea. Ms. Parry introduced herself and offered her services should any member need to call upon her. She advised Member Parks that on May 30, 2007, from 10:00 a.m. – 1:15 p.m., SCAG would be having a New Member Orientation for SCAG.

- B. **Ventura County Transportation Commission:** None.  
C. **League of California Cities:** None.  
D. **Other Agencies:** None.

10. **INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:** Brief discussion of how the flow of the Annual Meeting would run and noted again that several applications have been received for the Assistant to the Executive Director position. He also introduced the VCOG Member Orientation Manual.

11. **REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** None.
12. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m. to July 12, 2007 at Camarillo City Hall.