



**VENTURA COUNCIL  
OF GOVERNMENTS**

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, September 13, 2007**

**5:00 p.m.**

**City of Camarillo**

**Council Chambers**

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

- 
1. **CALL TO ORDER**: Chair Morehouse called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.
  2. **FLAG SALUTE**: Member Holden led the Pledge of Allegiance.
  3. **ROLL CALL**:

Alternate Member Sharkey	City of Port Hueneme
Member Jan McDonald	City of Camarillo
Member Patrick Hunter	City of Moorpark
Member Carl Morehouse	City of San Buenaventura
Member Tom Holden	City of Oxnard
Member Miller	City of Simi Valley

**Absent:** Member Cities: Fillmore, Ojai, Santa Paula, Thousand Oaks, and County of Ventura.
  4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**: None.
  5. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**: None.
  6. **APPROVAL OF THE FINAL AGENDA**: Member Miller moved to approve. Member Holden seconded.
  7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**
    - A. **Minutes** – Adopt the Minutes of the March 8, 2007 meeting.
    - B. **Minutes** – Adopt the Minutes of the May 10, 2007 meeting.
    - C. **Legislative Position Letters** – Receive and file letters sent by VCOG in support or position to state legislation.

Alternate Sharkey, Port Hueneme, indicated that he would be abstaining on A and B.

Member Miller moved to approve Items 7A – D. Member McDonald seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

8. **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

A. **Introduction of VCOG Assistant Executive Director Debra Varnado**

Wally Bobkiewicz, Interim Executive Director, introduced Debra Varnado to the meeting and invited her to speak. She will be the primary contact for SCAG as the liaison to VCOG and will be attending all SCAG Meetings (i.e., CEHD; EEC; Subregionals; and board meetings). She will keep VCOG informed of the activities at SCAG and indicated that she will leave her contact information should any member have any questions they would like answered or issues of inquiry.

B. **Update on VCOG / Ventura County Civic Alliance (VCCA) “Compact for a Sustainable County” Project:** Rebecca Evans, Executive Director of VCCA provided an update that VCCA was nearing the completion of Phase I and the amended part of Phase II. The data results from the Workshop of June 7, 2007 (mapping exercise), which was being translated into more understandable descriptive language of what the input from the residents was that night on the maps. Trends that are seen reveal that Ventura County residents have more consensus—more than from many other regions—in terms of people wanting the same trend lines of future development and how to accommodate population growth and ways to adjust housing or development or transportation lines to accommodate that growth in the future.

Ms. Evans indicated that they were working on getting the language into the development of potential scenarios for the future and scenarios related to jobs housing balance, housing types, transportation and other environmental issues. A write-up of those potential scenarios will be forthcoming.

Open Houses are planned for both ends of the County to present the information back to the public, to invite an opportunity for them to ask questions and give input on the results. The plan for these Open Houses will take place near the end of October, over the course of two evenings. This will open the door for more people to attend.

In nearing the completion of the first phase, Ms. Evans stated that VCCA would have to be within SCAG’s timeline to apply for support in terms of dollars or in terms of dollars for consultant time to move forward. SCAG’s timeline is approaching in November 2007 for application of those resources for funding that will not be available until July 2008. VCCA would like to put the next phase of the compact work group into a proposal that VCCA would bring to VCOG, to take to SCAG. The essence of this next phase would be to take the results from the workshops and the upcoming Open Houses. The next phase is to do a closer outreach with all ten cities and other key communities in the unincorporated areas of the county to do outreach and get the next level of

input from residents and talk about how these plans and scenarios might look at a local level. That would be the next step for a region wide blueprint for the future.

Member McDonald inquired as to Ms. Evans' comment that it will be necessary to apply for funding in November, and then asked if VCCA was still in Phase II, to which Ms. Evans replied that it was part of Phase II that current allocations have taken VCCA part of the way into Phase II of which there are remaining items, and there would be parts of Phase III that would be put into the next proposal. Member McDonald inquired as to what has been approved by VCOG as partnering in this. Mr. Bobkiewicz responded that all that VCOG has agreed to was the first two phases; therefore, anything that would be brought to VCOG would be new for consideration. This will be on the November 8, 2007 VCOG agenda, in time for a submittal to SCAG, especially subsequent to the upcoming Open Houses.

Ms. McDonald indicated that it will be important for her to have that discussion with her Council before the November 8, 2007 VCOG meeting, and to have the information available for them about Phase III. Ms. Evans responded that it would be possible to get that information very quickly and will have them ready prior to the proposed Open Houses.

- C. **Graffiti Summit:** Interim Executive Director Bobkiewicz indicated that Charlotte Cravens, Camarillo Vice Mayor, had contacted him regarding graffiti and asked if the VCOG Board would consider graffiti issues subsequent to her attending the recent Contract Cities meeting which was held in May. She requested that VCOG discuss collaborative efforts in Ventura County. The Administrative Committee discussed this at their June meeting and asked to have it placed on the agenda.

Member McDonald offered that she was relaying information from Vice Mayor Cravens as she (Cravens) had a prior commitment. Member Holden indicated that mitigation strategies in Oxnard include a Graffiti Task Force that has had participation from neighboring cities such as Camarillo and Ventura.

Mr. Bobkiewicz asked for direction as to a possible Saturday workshop effort from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., and inventory what some next steps might be. Member Holden suggested a Study Session, as there is a lot of information available. The City of Oxnard benefited by visiting the City of San Jose on numerous occasions. In a period of a year and a half, they (San Jose) reduced their graffiti by 75%. Oxnard has seen a huge impact, but the problem doesn't respect boundaries, so as Oxnard has reduced their issues, graffiti has filtered to the neighboring cities.

Chair Morehouse indicated that this should happen sooner than later and Mr. Bobkiewicz will work to organize near the first part of November.

- D. **Update on Implementation of 2007 Workplan:** Mina Layba, City of Thousand Oaks addressed the Board. The Legislative Committee advocated for SB 375 (Steinberg), which was a climate bill that integrated miles traveled and zoning. The Committee asked that the League change the wording to a 2-year bill and to consider local input. It has been made a 2-year bill. The second bill is ACA 8 Eminent Domain, which recently failed. The League and co-authors are collecting signatures by November to place this as a ballot measure in June. Other areas of discussion were Proposition 1A and the Budget Impasse. As of August 24, 2007 the Governor signed the budget about 50 days late into the process. The Assembly left on July 20, 2007. The Impasse was Senate republicans and they came to a conclusion of passing the budget in exchange for \$703 million worth of line item cuts to the \$145 billion plan, including \$5,023 million for health and human services, including Medi-Cal; \$70 million in State worker raises and \$39 million in funding for correctional facilities. Ms. Layba indicated that their committee usually doesn't meet when the Legislation is not in session; however, the Legislative Committee would be having a special meeting with Dave Mullinax on October 11, 2007 so he could provide updated highlights on what happened post session.

At the session that ended September 11, 2007, out of 2,800 bills, only 960 were approved during the 9-month session. Two overarching areas not resolved were the State Healthcare Coverage and Expanding the State's Water System. Ballot Measures to look for are: Term Limits and Eminent Domain for a future June election, and right now this redistricting issue may be put on a June or November ballot depending on number of ballots received.

Chair Morehouse commented on SB 375 and ACA 8 and recent League Conference hearings on both.

Mr. Bobkiewicz introduced Bruce Feng, Assistant City Manager in Camarillo, who is staff to VCOG's Emergency Preparedness Sub-Committee. Mr. Feng indicated that the subcommittee has been working on regional emergency planning with the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services, specifically with Laura Hernandez, Assistant Director, Disaster Services. On August 23 a Strategic Planning Participative Workshop was held that stressed a collaborative partnership with governmental agencies, private sector and local non-profit emergency preparedness organizations.

Ms. Hernandez prepared a summary of this workshop and on October 4, 2007. Mr. Feng indicated that he would be providing an email to the subcommittee inviting them to the follow-up to that workshop to take it to the next step.

Ms. Hernandez provided a PowerPoint presentation to the group. She passed out a *Home Safety Emergency Plan*, and anecdotally offered that unless they receive more funding, they are reaching the end of their quantities.

Following the PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Hernandez commented that she hoped to come back to VCOG after the next workshop to seek input.

- E. **Stormwater Quality Funding and NPDES Permit Compliance:** Mr. Bobkiewicz introduced Gerhardt Hubner from the Ventura County Watershed Protection District who spoke regarding next steps on the topic of Stormwater Quality and this impending permit compliance. He reiterated that the City Managers have been meeting weekly (via conference call) to discuss, because of the importance of this issue, and the prescriptive nature of this permit, the number of requirements that are in it and the cost implications. There was a Board of Supervisors Study Session on September 11, 2007, to raise awareness in the community of the importance of the issue. They plan to have future workshop sessions. The Regional Board will be meeting September 20, 2007, at the City of Ventura and open to the public and other stakeholders to present their concerns. Subsequently, while there will be a written comment period on September 28, 2007, the Ventura County Watershed Protection Group will also be submitting comments on that and wait for the outcome of the workshop of September 20, 2007. Hopefully, there will be some positive movement for them to facilitate further discussions with us so that our concerns can be addressed. They will issue the tentative order late Fall. There will be a formal, 45-day comment period, staff report, response to comments, and then an adoption hearing in 2008.

Chair Morehouse asked for questions from the board. Member Miller commented that he thought the City Managers were doing a good job coordinating and that he had attended the meeting of the Board of Supervisors on September 11, 2007, and thought that the cities would incur tremendous expenditures should the permit compliance be implanted as it is set up now. Simi Valley figured that it would cost them \$16.5 million annually to do what they want to do, and he will discuss this at the upcoming Regional Board meeting.

Holly Schroeder from the Building Industry Association of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties spoke and reiterated Mr. Hubner's concerns. She further commented that her organization shares a lot of the same concerns about the permit and have been actively participating with the Board, Gerhardt and the City Managers' staffs. She also indicated how important it is to Ventura County and so many of the requirements, because they are so prescriptive in the permit, conflict with a lot of the policy priorities in Ventura County making it very difficult in land development to do infill projects, a general priority in most cities with the SOAR initiative. She had attended a conference on Affordable Housing and mentioned that costs will dramatically increase if grading is restricted significantly over half of the year and other types of requirements for low impact development. There are a lot of implementation problems, and she stressed that her organization's general sense is that they, like the County and the individual cities, submitted significant comments to the regional board, met with board staff over the course of summer and do not feel that the BIA's concerns have been heard. The amount of change between the first and second drafts is not significant and she respectfully asked that as many representatives as possible be present at the upcoming Board meeting on September 20, 2007,

and contact as many lead board staff to express your concerns. BIA wants to be part of the solution to work together and be creative to work on solutions that make sense.

Member McDonald asked if VCOG could add its name to the list of engaged parties. Mr. Bobkiewicz responded that in the 5 years since his arrival there has never been a time when the City Managers have been so engaged as to meet weekly to discuss a topic until this one.

Since this item was agendaized, VCOG will be added to the list of interested parties for any future written correspondence that VCOG has taken a position. Mr. Bobkiewicz also responded that since Chair Morehouse would be present at the hearing it would be a good way to express that.

- F. **Status Report on Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Development:** Warren Whiteaker, SCAG staff on the RCP provided a PowerPoint presentation. There will be an increase of approximately 6 million people in the next 25 years, which is a 33% increase in population. This will have an impact on traffic, housing, open space, energy, demand and movement of goods, water quality and quantity, waste management, air quality. SCAG is looking at the 6-county region and the development of a sustainable vision and ultimately the framework to get there. They need plans that have measurable goals, outcomes, objectives and strategies to get on track to create a desirable future. Additionally, those plans need to meet the funding requirements above the state and federal regulations so that we can get those funds. More information on the RCP is available at: [compassblueprint.org](http://compassblueprint.org). The comprehensive plan builds on the State of the Region in that it wants to get on the right track and steer it towards the correct direction. Ventura County is already doing that and indicated that SCAG could use that example and start working on the rest of the region. Sustainability doesn't happen by accident. Ventura County has always been proactive, whether through SOAR or through its own Compact.

John Asuncion, SCAG staff member spoke on the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), which is a document that brings together policies, strategies and projects that will serve the long-range transportation action plan for the region. It is a multi-modal plan that will integrate the best transportation system to integrate with the best possible transportation plan for the region in the year 2035.

Mr. Bobkiewicz reported that draft documents would be available after VCOG's November 8, 2007 meeting, and he would ask Ms. Varnado to come back with a staff review and work with appropriate staff members in the individual cities and involve the Planning Directors in the RCP, and he would also take a look at Ventura County and the RTP. He inquired of the board if it would be appropriate if it came back at the January meeting and indicated that there would still be time for VCOG to submit coordinated regional comments if VCOG were to come back with some staff thoughts on the draft in January.

Chair Morehouse responded that it would be prudent to do so.

- G. **Nominations for VCOG Representative on SCAG's Transportation and Communications Committee:** Chair Morehouse indicated that he had a hand-delivered letter to his attention from Tom Glancy from Thousand Oaks, which indicated his interest in that seat.

Member Holden moved to appoint. Member Miller seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

9. **AGENCY REPORTS:**

- A. **Southern California Association of Governments:** None.
- B. **Ventura County Transportation Commission:** Mary Travis welcomed Debra to Ventura County. Did not meet the past week due to the League of California Cities Conference. VCTC is submitting an application for funding of a Farmworker Van Pool program, which was set up by Assemblymember Pedro Nava to coordinate efforts to get farmworkers to and from the fields, rather than their having to drive individually in whatever shape or form of vehicle. Also VCTC will be having a presentation by Councilmembers from the City of Santa Barbara about some type of commuter hour train service between Ventura and Santa Barbara, and finally discussion was taking place regarding the appointment of a new Executive Director to the Commission.
- C. **League of California Cities:** Dave Mullinax could not be present as his father was ill.

Chair Morehouse spoke about the division meeting to be hosted by Ventura on October 12 in conjunction with the Scottish Highland Games.

- D. **Other Agencies:** None.

10. **INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:** None.

11. **REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** None.

12. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m. to November 8, 2007 at Camarillo City Hall.