



**VENTURA COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENTS**

MINUTES

Thursday, November 9, 2006

5:00 p.m.

City of Camarillo

Council Chambers

601 Carmen Drive, Camarillo, California 93010

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Hunter called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

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

3. **ROLL CALL:**

Member Jan McDonald

Member Patrick Hunter

Member Tom Holden

Alternate Tony Volante

Member Carl Morehouse

Member Mary Ann Krause

Member Paul Miller

Member Jacqui Irwin

Member Linda Parks

City of Camarillo

City of Moorpark

City of Oxnard

City of Port Hueneme

City of Ventura

City of Santa Paula

City of Simi Valley

City of Thousand Oaks

County of Ventura

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

5. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** Member Parks commented that LAFCO held an Ag Mitigation Workshop November 9, 2006, which was well attended by the staff of most of the cities and thanked the group for bringing them. Discussion included what Ventura County can do as a region to assure that potential mitigation measures are taken when doing EIRs that take Agriculture land. Presently, findings of overriding considerations are used, we say it's a significant impact that's unmitigable, when in actuality, there are mitigations and oftentimes they are regional in nature. In fact, one of the speakers from SCAG offered to come and speak to VCOG about the types of

MEMBERS

City of Camarillo

Jan McDonald, Member
Kevin Kildee, *Alternate*

City of Oxnard

Thomas Holden, Member
Tim Flynn, *Alternate*

City of Simi Valley

Paul Miller, Member
Steven Sojka, *Alternate*

City of Fillmore

Ernie Villegas, Member
Ken Smedley, *Alternate*

City of Port Hueneme

Jonathan Sharkey, Member
Anthony C. Volante, *Alternate*

City of Thousand Oaks

Jacqui Irwin, Member
Dennis Gillette, *Alternate*

City of Moorpark

Patrick Hunter, Member
Clint D. Harper, *Alternate*

City of San Buenaventura

Carl Morehouse, Member
Brian Brennan, *Alternate*

County of Ventura

Linda Parks, Member
John Flynn, *Alternate*

City of Ojai

Sue Horgan, Member
Rae Hanstad, *Alternate*

City of Santa Paula

Mary Ann Krause, Member
John Procter, *Alternate*

things that can be done on a regional basis in terms of mitigation measures, also about the kind of things that can be done with affordable housing. Some cities are full and cannot put additional housing in, and others have room and need funds. There are things that can be done regionally.

Member Morehouse expressed frustration and concern regarding Member Krause's misfortune on Election night, and thanked her for her efforts on behalf of VCOG. Additionally, he thanked her for her regional representation at SCAG and noted that it will be difficult to replace her. He noted that with Supervisor Judy Mikels' also going off the Board, thereby losing another seat of representation (SCAG), there will only be five (5) seats represented with much larger COGs, having much larger "fire" power than VCOG.

6. **APPROVAL OF THE FINAL AGENDA:** Alternate Volante moved to approve and Member Miller seconded. Carried unanimously by voice vote.

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- A. Adopt Minutes of September 14, 2006 Meeting
- B. Update on Implementation of 2006 Workplan

Member McDonald moved approval of the Consent Calendar; Member Krause seconded. Carried unanimously by voice vote.

8. **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Update on VCTC/VCOG Issues Mina Layba, Senior Analyst, Thousand Oaks City Manager's Office, sat in for Interim Executive Director Bobkiewicz, and indicated that Mr. Bobkiewicz asked that he just receive direction on moving forward after the meeting that was held November 2, 2006.

Chair Hunter asked the Board how they wished to proceed.

Member Morehouse commented that there's going to be, in addition to the loss of Mrs. Krause, some significant changes of this Board (VCOG) with reorganizations of cities across the County.

Chair Hunter asked if VCOG wanted to wait until reorganizations in January to deliberate this in greater detail?

Member Morehouse responded that he thought there was some value in that proposal and that there's a wealth of knowledge in those that have been through the fire already, and could probably go, but without Mr. Bobkiewicz's input, and with his being engaged all along, it may be valuable to hold it over. He also thought that what came out of the last joint meeting with VCTC was a sense of direction to continue the dialogue and thought that it was reflected in the next item on the agenda. If the collective body wants to give direction to Wally, he thought it was appropriate. He posed that the group could set the background and the order and see where it goes from there.

Member McDonald commented that the one thing the group came to a conclusion on at the last meeting was the direction of the development of a cooperative agreement, and thought that she would feel comfortable about going forward with it because it was actually an action taken by both boards. She thought that it would keep Mr. Bobkiewicz busy for the next month or so, and thought moving forward would be positive.

Chair Hunter commented that he was comfortable with that as well.

Member Holden concurred, indicating that the good course of action would be to hold off on taking action on the position, but moving forward on the agreement.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Future VCOG Staffing: Deferred until meeting of January 11, 2007.

Regional Housing Needs Assessment Update: Chris Stephens, County of Ventura Resource Management Director, reported and commented that County Planning has been serving as staff on this item for the VCOG Board, and as of November 9, 2006 at (Camarillo) City Hall, SCAG sponsored a subregional workshop on the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) and their forecasting processes. All ten (10) cities in the County were present and had a very good discussion, opening up the maps and spending some time correcting those maps and providing direction to SCAG staff with respect to their forecast for where future land uses might occur.

Mr. Stephens shared the presentation (PowerPoint) that County staff provided to SCAG—a different perspective on how a process like this might occur and provided information as to what land uses are in the unincorporated area of the County.

He noted that Mr. Bobkiewicz provided VCOG Board with the County Planning Division's comment letter on the RHNA process. (Power Point Presentation with comments followed.)

Based on where this County is going to be on past growth trends, growth is not on a steady line by any means, and the availability of land changes over time. We should flip it on its head and take a look at what land is available for growth and start with that. A series of slides followed, taking the factors that SCAG will consider in preparing their growth forecasts and put them into map form, overlaying them. Identified, were areas that are not available for growth.

After PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Stephens identified 1100 acres of land that County Planning staff felt were available for development. Sphere of Influence (SOI) areas were also presented in PowerPoint presentation, and Mr. Stephens indicated that quite a bit of the developable unincorporated land is actually within the cities' SOI. Given the guidelines for orderly development, it is customary that when those lands are developed they are actually annexed and developed within the city. They become an urban use and per County policies, urban uses belong within those cities. There is some question whether that should be counted as available land for the County unincorporated area or available land for which the city of sphere is located.

Regarding water and sewer service, after you add all those things together, they were able to identify 151 acres of readily developable land in the County's unincorporated area that is outside of SOIs of the local coastal plan with community sewer service available, which is required for any type of substantial urban development.

The point of the exercise was to provide information to SCAG that the numbers of that "top down" process does have its value, but when you take a look at it from the other perspective, there may be some realities with respect to Ventura County's topography and land uses that will make it difficult to see those things occur in the future.

This information was submitted to SCAG on November 9, 2006. The Ventura County planners will continue in the RHNA process with SCAG and the cities. There will be a County / Cities Planning Directors meeting at the end of the month (November) to discuss planning issues of common concern and continue to make sure those are put in front of SCAG for full consideration of the process.

Speaker Comment: Bob Burrow, Director of Community Development, City of Camarillo spoke about the constraints placed upon the cities in the county regarding the FEMA Floodplain maps. Camarillo is looking at those and SCAG has asked the cities to provide AB2158 information by November 20, 2006, and they expect to have comments in with regard to the numbers to be in a position to have a hearing in January on these results.

In the meantime, on the technical side, the Planning Directors will be meeting to try to understand the numbers. In their estimation, there are some extremes in that there are a couple of cities that have a larger number, based upon needs for jobs / housing balance or based upon past development trends that aren't a match with those. He opined that there are a couple of cities that are undercounted in terms of the number of units they should have and noted that it will be interesting as we go through the next steps and try to resolve those and come up with a strategy, as Planning Directors, on the technical side, within the County. A rough cut of that would be that one could apply a certain growth rate to all the cities of approximately 1.3% for example, for each year that would be an adequate number for their 9-year forecast.

We have other issues that are unique to the County of Ventura; such as the guidelines for orderly development. Again, SCAG was very helpful in providing some clear dates and timeframes and going out on a limb, saying that the Planning Directors would be available to assist VCOG in coming up with numbers that would be a little more equitable and round out some of those extremes to come up with numbers that ultimately, since coming down from the state, are more workable.

Member McDonald commented that one of the things she hopes VCOG does is to take the opportunity to talk more about working together as a region, and this was the opportunity to do just that. She suggested appointing an ad hoc committee as per the normal process--with two from the east, two from the west, and she would gladly volunteer to serve on it. It would show that we really are working as a region to get together and try to solve it. She further indicated that she didn't want to see us in the same position that we were in last time, and suggested VCOG meet as an ad hoc committee and include a couple of the members of the technical group, and offered

Camarillo's Planning Director, and perhaps the County would do the same. It would be a sign of unity of working together to solve and understand it.

Member Morehouse echoed Member McDonald's comments in terms of what this region went through last time.

Member McDonald commented that the body should appoint an ad hoc committee that would begin to meet and formulate something to be brought back in January to the full VCOG board, and did not want to lose this opportunity. She asked the board how they would like to proceed.

Member Morehouse concurred.

Alternate Volante commented that Port Hueneme would have a hard time meeting in January because of the election results, and will not appoint members to this body until the 17th of January and will go dark on the 3rd of January. He asked what would be accomplished with this ad hoc committee?

Member McDonald answered with: ways to be fair and equitable; and understanding each other's needs, concerns, restrictions. All are unique, all have problems—maybe by bringing 5 of the body together, VCOG could begin to weed through and come up with ways to share this. Developing the criteria and the methodology that would be used is the tough part. It needs to be done collectively. The ad hoc committee could come back to VCOG in January, when the full board is here and can have a discussion.

Member Holden offered Oxnard to participate, and he could represent the City on an ad hoc committee.

Chair Hunter invited the SCAG representative (Joe Carreras, SCAG, RHNA Project) to comment and walk through time frames and deadlines to be aware of in moving forward during this process.

Mr. Carreras reported that the timeframes are in flux, but the best estimate for the next major milestones are: trying to analyze all the input from subregional workshops that SCAG conducted (as of Monday, November 13, 2006, 14 of these workshops have been conducted in every major area of Southern California) that are part of SCAG's planning area.

SCAG will be feeding all of that back in anticipation for some kind of brief update for their regional council and policies committees meeting on December 14, 2006. They will probably be developing a final set of policies that can be used to conduct a second major public hearing to be noticed sometime in December for January. At that public hearing, SCAG will be accepting public input on all the RHNA methodologies, the subregional growth forecast, and the regional total. It is expected that before November 23, 2006, SCAG will have the State Housing Community Development Department issue their share of Statewide housing needs for the RHNA planning process too, so the second notice public hearing in January will be in the context of a State Housing share of California's growth and housing projection, as well as input that SCAG receives collectively from all the communities in all of Southern California.

That will be the final look at policies and numbers and from there, SCAG will go on to a regional council action, maybe as early as February where they may adopt a RHNA which would trigger an appeals process, and so on.

We are still on schedule; although it will be close to have a RHNA adopted by the statutory deadline of July 1, 2007. Mr. Carreras commented that that is how he saw the next major milestones.

Member Krause inquired that if this ad hoc committee were going to be commenting on the forecast allocation within Ventura County, when would SCAG need to have that information.

Mr. Carreras responded that as soon as possible, before the next public hearing that SCAG is scheduling for January. He noted that VCOG seems to be on track to do that, but may also need to set up a special meeting. This process is moving very quickly. Another element is that SCAG is not completely operating under the basis of existing housing statute. The presumption is that they will have a RHNA Pilot Program approved by the legislature in December when they reconvene as an emergency item that will pass and become effective January 1, because they have condensed this process as a result of emphasizing public input and outreach and interactive community within these subregional workshops, filling out of special forms and feedback, trying to do as much front end planning as possible. The experiences of the past have not been good in terms in getting collective agreement on numbers, and trying to get as much public input at the front end of process and to minimize at the back end appeals and potential appeals on the process. That is still to be delivered in terms of the legislative package to Sacramento in December. It's going to be part of SCAG's Board meeting on December 14, 2006. The finalizing of the statutory language that will be proposed, considering that we do have a lot of support by our stakeholders in Sacramento and the majority leaders have promised SCAG that they will bring it forward as an urgency item. It's going to be sponsored in a bill by Senate Transportation and Housing Chair Allen Lowenthal from Long Beach. If things go as anticipated, we could have that emergency legislation enacted and that will be important in seeing that the process moves in the way that he described. Mr. Carreras further commented that should that not occur, it creates some uncertainty.

Chair Hunter asked for further comments.

Member Morehouse appreciated Mr. Carreras's attendance and outline and noted that Orange County was not pleased and have been fighting this the whole way. He asked the Board to stay on top of this through their cities, to the proposed legislative language when it looks like it's going to go to the regional council. He noted that the smaller cities weren't present at this meeting, with the exception of Member Krause, but asked if anyone wanted to convey to him how they felt about his representative vote on the Regional Council when it comes forward. He added that if this doesn't fly, we're still back under the gun of the cycle of RHNA, which has to be moved forward in any case. The sooner this group could get together to talk about the issues and hammer them out, the better off we'll be in having a leg up on this.

Member Krause summarized that it would be important for the ad hoc to meet and make its recommendation to VCOG before the January hearing at SCAG.

Chair Hunter commented that the board had representatives / volunteers from: Oxnard, Camarillo, Simi and Ventura and asked for any further comments.

Having none, Chair Hunter entertained a motion for an ad hoc committee and composition as described.

Member Miller made a motion and Member Parks seconded. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Update from Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee: Camarillo Assistant City Manager, Bruce Feng gave an oral report on the efforts of the Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee.

PETS (Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards): Recent Federal Legislation was passed requiring cities in the states include pets in their disaster planning programs. It is a mandatory program that the federal government has promised some FEMA grant funding. In working with Laura Hernandez and the Red Cross, the County does have a pretty good program now that they rely on and used in the Day Fire incident, which is more of an adoption and referral program for pets. Mr. Feng suggested enhancing our program for pet evacuations by creating more of a self-reliant program for those who have pets to prepare individually, such as: having identification, favorite food, leashes, etc. There was a poll taken nationally that roughly 40% of all households (2/3), have made the statement that they won't evacuate without their pets. The idea is cloaked in the Humane Society's brochure (distributed by Mr. Feng), which is appropriate will aid us in smoother evacuations for people.

The next item addressed was the Southern California Edison Distribution Operations Center (DOC), and is equivalent of an EOC for the cities and county. Their system is very progressive, it mobilizes their workforce efficiently, it coordinates with the public communication as to the status of an event—they have crisis levels, if there's an earthquake, it coordinates with the other safety services in the County in case they have a wire down.

Finally, Mr. Feng underscored the importance of cities participating in the 300 and 400 series NIMS training for 2007.

9. **AGENCY REPORTS:** None.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m. to the January 11, 2006.