



**VENTURA COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENTS**

AGENDA

Thursday, May 8, 2008

5:00 p.m.

City of Camarillo

Council Chambers

601 Carmen Drive, Camarillo, California 93010

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **FLAG SALUTE**
3. **ROLL CALL**
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

At this time, members of the public may comment on any item not appearing on the agenda upon completion of a speaker card. Individual Board Members may briefly respond to Public Comments or ask questions for clarification.

5. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**
6. **APPROVAL OF THE FINAL AGENDA**
7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. **Minutes** - Adopt minutes of January 10, 2008 meeting.
- B. **Minutes** – Adopt minutes of March 13, 2008 meeting.
- C. **2040 Population, Housing Units and Employment Forecasts – Amendments Pursuant to Ventura County Board of Supervisors Adoption** – Approve minor amendments to previously adopted report.
- D. **Workplan Update** – Receive and file update.

MEMBERS

City of Camarillo
Jan McDonald, Member
Charlotte Craven, *Alternate*

City of Oxnard
Thomas Holden, Member
Tim Flynn, *Alternate*

City of Simi Valley
Paul Miller, Member
Barbra Williamson, *Alternate*

City of Fillmore
Steve Conaway, Member
Cecilia Cuevas, *Alternate*

City of Port Hueneme
Maricela Morales, Member
Toni Young, *Alternate*

City of Thousand Oaks
Tom Glancy, Member
Jaqui Irwin, *Alternate*

City of Moorpark
Patrick Hunter, Member
Keith Millhouse, *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
Joe De Vito, *Alternate*

City of Santa Paula
Gabino Aguirre, Member
John Procter, *Alternate*

8. **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- A. **FY 2008/09 Budget**: Adopt Resolution No. 2008-01 approving FY 2008/09 budget.
- B. **Update on VCOG/Ventura County Civic Alliance (VCCA) “Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County” Project**: Receive oral status report.
- C. **4th of July Fireworks Safety Campaign**: Receive oral report, consider VCOG program of raising public awareness of fireworks safety that could include advertising and a press conference, and provide direction to staff.
- D. **Sustainability Project**: Receive oral report, consider options to move forward with the VCOG workplan item regarding sustainability and provide direction to staff.
- E. **VCOG’s Seat on the SCAG Community, Economic and Human Development Committee**: Consider appointment to committee.
- F. **2008 VCOG Annual Meeting**: Receive oral status report on annual meeting on Thursday June 26, 2008 in Oxnard.

9. **AGENCY REPORTS**

- A. Southern California Association of Governments
- B. Ventura County Transportation Commission
- C. League of California Cities
- D. Other Agencies

10. **INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

11. **REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Any Board Member may propose items for placement on a future agenda. Members may discuss whether or not the item should be agendaized and the description of the agenda item.

12. **ADJOURNMENT TO JULY 10, 2008**

Copies of staff reports or other written documentation relating to each item of business referred to on this agenda are on file in the City of Santa Paula City Manager’s Office and are available for public inspection. If you have any questions regarding any agenda item, contact the Interim Executive Director at (805) 933-4200.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Interim Executive Director. Notification 48 hours before the meeting will allow VCOG to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting (28 CFR 35, 102-35.104 ADA Title II).



**VENTURA COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENTS**

***Draft* MINUTES**

Thursday, January 10, 2008

5:00 p.m.

City of Camarillo

Council Chambers

601 Carmen Drive, Camarillo, California 93010

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Holden called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

2. **FLAG SALUTE:** Chair Holden led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **ROLL CALL:**

Member Jan McDonald	City of Camarillo
Member Steve Conaway	City of Fillmore
Member Tom Holden	City of Oxnard
Member Gabino Aguirre	City of Santa Paula
Member Linda Parks	County of Ventura
Alternate Member Sue Horgan	City of Ojai
Alternate Member Barbara Williamson	City of Simi Valley

Absent: Member Cities: Moorpark, Port Hueneme, Thousand Oaks and Ventura

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

5. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** None.

6. **APPROVAL OF THE FINAL AGENDA**

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. **Minutes** – Adopt the Minutes of the November 8, 2007 meeting. Member McDonald requested a change in the Minutes to reflect the word “not” on Page 8, Paragraph 3, last sentence. It should read, “when the County and City Planners are NOT on board.”

B. **Workplan Update** -- Receive and file update.

Member Aguirre moved to approve Consent Calendar, Member McDonald seconded. Member cities Ojai and Simi Valley abstained. Approved unanimously by voice vote.

8. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. **Election of Chair-Elect:** Mayor Holden, as Chair-Elect in 2007 and automatically became the chair for the year 2008. Member Miller, Simi Valley was nominated as Chair-Elect, and approved by acclamation.
- B. **Appointment of 2008 Administrative Committee:** VCOG members concurred to leave committee with five members and to appoint Member Hunter of Moorpark Immediate Past Chair and Member Miller as Administrative Chair.
- C. **Adoption of 2008 Workplan:** Would remain the same as 2007. Administrative Committee met in December 2007 and suggested Item 8 be added to the list to follow up from the work of the Graffiti Summit, to work to develop a model ordinance to be used countywide for acts of graffiti.

Suggestion for Item 9 based on suggestions from boardmembers included by Mr. Bobkiewicz entitled, "Sustainability," to continue work on the Alliance for the Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County Project, and include topic from Supervisor Parks.

Member Conaway motioned to approve, seconded by Member McDonald.

- D. **Adoption of 2008 Legislative Agenda:** Motion to adopt by Member McDonald, seconded by Chair Holden. Carried unanimously.
- E. **Overview of SCAG Proposed Regional Transportation Plan (RTP):** (Item H: Update on VCOG/Ventura County Civic Alliance (VCCA) "Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County" Project was heard at this time).

Alan Wapner, Chair, SCAG Transportation and Communications Committee provided presentation. He indicated that the RTP would be the largest policy document that would be produced through SCAG. It was important that policy makers produced it and policy makers presented it throughout the region and he took it upon himself to present it and made visits to all the Commissions, the COGs and sub-regions within the SCAG jurisdiction to personally present it, which was put together through a collaboration of all the policy makers throughout the region. Among some of the topics covered were:

The RTP is a:

- A 30-year plan of transportation for the SCAG region made up of the six counties;
- If your project was not contained in the RTP, it was not eligible for any type of funding—public or private funding;
- It was important that if you had a worthwhile project, that it was included in the RTP;

- It is updated every four years;
- It is comprised of projects, strategies and policies;
- This RTP was over a half trillion dollars—a significant investment in Southern California’s transportation;
- All the dollars were stated in nominal dollars as required by the federal highway administration—they were valued at the dollar at the time the money was either raised or spent;
- RTP was developed through consultation with counties’ transportation commissions, the sub-regions, tribal nations and transit agencies—but most importantly with members of the public; and
- Whether you agreed or disagreed he stressed the importance of agreeing that it was an open and fair process.

In closing, Mr. Wapner made both himself available and the report to any of those boardmembers who may be interested in additional presentations.

Chair Holden asked how it pertains to Ventura County and how it appeared that there were minimal improvements in Ventura County versus LA County and other areas.

At that time, Mr. Bobkiewicz introduced Darren Kettle, Executive Director, VCTC to the board and invited him to speak. The Commission would be viewing the same presentation that Mr. Wapner presented. Opportunities for more discussion would happen at that meeting to be held January 11, 2008. The Commission had had a brief opportunity to look at the draft RTP. Some of the observations that Mayor Holden had noted had also been noted by Mr. Kettle and the obvious point that the improvements that had been made in the five or six counties was that these other counties would have a revenue stream that supported transportation investment and as Mr. Wapner indicated, so much of the program was based on investment from local options sales tax, not having that made it difficult to make those investments without that revenue stream and the way that the transportation funding occurred in Southern California was through local option sales taxes. VCTC’s intention was to do a greater, in depth review of the draft RTP and present a recommendation to the full commission in February 2008 of the observations that VCTC has.

F. **Countywide Stormwater Permit Update:**

Mr. Bobkiewicz introduced countywide efforts on the new stormwater efforts, and Gerhardt Hubner, Deputy Director of Water and Environmental resources for the Ventura County Watershed Protection District and provided an update.

- At the last September 13 (2007) meeting the permit for the countywide stormwater permit was on extension renewal, from the LAWRQB;
- On September 20, 2007, a workshop was held at the City of Ventura that was very well attended. All who represented our county did an excellent job with their presentations;

- October 12, 2007, program in each of the cities presented written comments on the second draft permit and shortly thereafter made a request for a series of facilitated meetings to discuss concerns and written comments;
- In October 2007 the LAWQRB appointed a new executive officer, so there was some internal discussions and strategies among themselves on how to move forward;
- On December 21, 2007 the Ventura County group met with the next executive officer to discuss next steps and where to go and also had a meeting with her staff on January 9, 2008 to discuss TMDL and its monitoring and had a very positive exchange Mr. Hubner felt optimistic for some potential changes;
- On February 27-28, 2008 there was going to be a two-day set workshop with meetings at the Government Center which all stakeholders would be invited to participate and would be a revised permit prior to that February meeting;
- In April there would be a tentative permit released with a 45-day comment period; and
- In June, there would be a tentative order for consideration at the Regional board.

He also mentioned that there was a letter signed by Supervisor Parks suggesting another public workshop. Other seven cities had also sent letters and were awaiting response from same. Bi-weekly meetings were still occurring with City Managers' group to discuss permit.

Members McDonald and Parks provided additional related comments.

G. **VCOG Graffiti Summit:**

Mr. Bobkiewicz reported that there was representation from all 10 cities, as well as the County of Ventura. Members Holden, Aguirre and McDonald were present, as well as the full Camarillo Council. It was a great event and all present learned a lot. Next steps are for VCOG to move forward to present a sample ordinance, with Oxnard's taking the lead, as their ordinance is the model.

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

Rebecca Evans, Executive Director introduced Glen Bolen, Land Use Planning Consultant of Fregonese Calthorpe Associates who presented the findings from Phase I. She reiterated that the board had received the draft of the Phase I Final Report that the consultants were hoping to print by the end of January. He was also available for comments or corrections subsequent to his presentation.

He indicated that he was one of the consultants that SCAG hired to be available to assist cities, counties, etc., to help the Region attain its goals. Via Power Point presentation, he recapped the process that the professionals and

public went through to indicate what the future of our region would look like. Land consumption was one of the top issues.

The committees used scenarios at both Simi Valley and Ventura workshops to see where the trends were going and found that both were seeing similar results in observations. Guiding principles were used and built several land use scenarios that they will come back with in March, but how, using these different guiding principles, competed with each other.

Mr. Bobkiewicz added that the report would be available for the March meeting.

Member Parks mentioned transportation would be a topic that she would be interested in. She had left that message with the working group and would like to have results available in the March report.

Mr. Bolen indicated that the amount of benefit that cities were getting from transportation that didn't show up in the model, included walk, bike, park once, came under "land use." SCAG hired a consultant on the East Coast to do that very detailed analysis (4D analysis). It showed the benefits VCOG had already "bought" by developing in a smarter pattern than the rest of the Southland. He would bring that information with him to the next meeting.

Member Parks added that part of the process brought to VCOG initially, and which the Transportation Commission (VCTC) also had a presentation, was the emphasis at that level, to poll the residents while there were a hundred people in a room—not only on land use—but also transportation and on the maps participants were actually drawing in corridors, etc. She further indicated that it was that type of information she would like to have had and Mr. Bolen indicated in the affirmative of its inclusivity in the upcoming draft report.

Mary Ann Krause spoke and indicated support for the work that has been done thus far a starting point. She also reported that she, as a member of the Alliance as well as a member of the working group on the Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County. She had been a member for a year since she left City Council. In review, in the fall of 2005 those members of the Civic Alliance approached her, as Chair Elect of VCOG and Mr. Bobkiewicz as Interim Executive Director of VCOG to talk about a partnership with VCOG and the Civic Alliance. It was through VCOG's leadership that the partnership developed and the great work could be done. When the proposal prepared by the Alliance and blessed by VCOG actually went to SCAG for consideration of funding, it got very high marks and was in competition with many other grant requests. The reason for the high marks was it that was multi jurisdictional—the 10 cities in the County all participated together, and was unlike any other that SCAG reviewed and the comprehensive nature of it and the ability to engage the public in talking about important issues were things that were very appealing and both SCAG staff and all the member agencies, when it came time to vote on projects, were really pleased to provide funding to this project. She wanted to encourage the Board to continue to support this project in its

next phase. She reiterated that she knew there were concerns and trepidation when VCOG first partnered with the Civic Alliance about having non-electeds working on a project of this type. She thought it important to note just on the Compact working group, three of them were former mayors of cities in Ventura County and there were many other involved in the political process—perhaps not as electeds, but who had to work through the political process and understand the realities of that and understand the difficulties of it. There was great concern that they would not embarrass VCOG members and put them on the spot, but rather produce something that they would be proud of and that would help continue this discussion into the future and how VCOG would become leaders in a sustainable Ventura County Compact.

I. **Legislative Committee Update:**

Mina Layba discussed the following, as well as provided the Legislative Committee Update:

- Governor's State of the State and introduction of the 2008-09 State budget; and
- Legislative Sub-committee was on recess and would be meeting in February.

Additionally, Ms. Layba provided an update from January 10, 2008 from that morning:

- Governor presented that there was a \$14.5 billion deficit by the end of the year and stated that it had nothing to do with the housing slump or the sub-prime market but that revenues were remaining flat;
- He proposed two options—A) the reduction of every state program by 10%, eliminating cost of living adjustments for employees and reduction of appropriations to schools that were above the Prop 98 guarantee, and then using the authority under Prop 57 and 58, he wanted to suspend next year's prepayment of the economic recovery bonds and sell remaining bonds;
- In his proposal, he stated that he would not raise new taxes; he would not reduce funding for schools as allowable by Prop 98, and he would cut whole programs but it was not identified in his speech;
- The revenue stabilization fund was part of the constitutional amendment and any revenue that the state received would have a put-away fund so if there would be any deficits, they would be used to fund those deficit laden years and there would be an automatic trigger if we the state went into funding levels below and decreasing funding in the state. Highlights from the *Sacramento Bee* which were as follows: looking at a plan that would cut every department, including the legislature and the courts, the University of CA and CA state systems by 10%; Other cuts included 48 state parks (1 out of 3 parks); Release 22,000 prisoners based on new legislation to classify non-serious / non-violent / and non-sex offenders based on new statutory change and would begin in March; they would

pare school funding; Reduce health services for the poor and low-income blind and elderly disabled; and the reduction of 7,000 state employees—6,000 would be from the prison system; Lifeguard services to state beaches, etc.; and the sale of \$3.3 billion in Economic Recovery bonds.

J. **2008 VCOG Annual Meeting:**

The Annual meeting would be in June, and Mr. Bobkiewicz proposed Thursday, June 26 as a date that will work as far as any high school graduations and prior to the 4th of July for the meeting in the Oxnard / Ventura area and asked for the appropriateness of that date and any recommendations for topics and speakers. Chair Holden asked that any recommendations be sent to Mr. Bobkiewicz.

9. **AGENCY REPORTS:**

A. **Southern California Association of Governments:** None.

B. **Ventura County Transportation Commission:** None.

C. **League of California Cities:** None.

D. **Other Agencies:** None.

10. **INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:** Mr. Bobkiewicz discussed dues for 08-09 and had not been discussed and would be discussing at a future meeting with some proposals and thought it would be less than three or four years ago. The board had expressed a comfort level with the amount expressed a comfort level with the current level, and would be sending along to City Managers.

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

12. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. to March 13, 2008 at Camarillo City Hall.



**VENTURA COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENTS**

***Draft* MINUTES**

Thursday, March 13, 2008

5:00 p.m.

City of Camarillo

Council Chambers

601 Carmen Drive, Camarillo, California 93010

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Holden called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

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

3. **ROLL CALL:**

Member Jan McDonald	City of Camarillo
Member Steve Conaway	City of Fillmore
Member Tom Holden	City of Oxnard
Member Gabino Aguirre	City of Santa Paula
Member Paul Miller	City of Simi Valley
Member Maricela Morales	City of Port Hueneme
Member Tom Glancy	City of Thousand Oaks
Member Carl Morehouse	City of Ventura

Absent: Member Cities: Moorpark, Ojai and the County of Ventura

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

5. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** Maricela Morales from Port Hueneme spoke introducing herself, and is on her second term on the City Council. Announced the 60th Anniversary of Port Hueneme's incorporation on Wednesday, March 19, 2008.

Member Morehouse spoke and thanked the Board for providing the opportunity to serve as the Chair and regretted missing out on the transition at the last meeting. He congratulated Mayor Holden on his new appointment.

6. **APPROVAL OF THE FINAL AGENDA:** Motion to approve by Member Miller, seconded by Member Morales.

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. **Workplan Update:** Motion and a second by Member McDonald and Morehouse respectively.

8. **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- A. **2040 Population, Housing Units and Employment Forecasts:** Ms. Varnado indicated that a link went out with this agenda and Nancy Settle was present to introduce the (County) staff who worked on this report. She reiterated that this motion was to accept draft Decapolis and Vacant Land Study reports; and 2) Adopt “General Plans Capacity” Forecast of 1,002,433 Ventura County residents in the year 2040 as the preferred forecast for planning purposes, including Census Tract forecasts.

This report was funded by SCAG in its 2006 - 2007 work program for \$79,000. The last forecast was adopted in the year 2000.

Nancy Settle, Ventura County Planning Division, was present with staff that worked on the 2040 Forecast. It was approximately a year and a half to two-year effort. A brief overview and how it was done, as well as some future projects, including VCTC future contracts, with SCAG through VCTC, that are called the Transportation and Leadership Program, that staff would be working on shortly and the other was a Biological Analysis and Land Use Recommendations, which would affect the County’s unincorporated areas. Nancy indicated that she would be happy to provide those when ready.

Kim Hocking spoke and thanked Simon Choy of SCAG in the contributions he made as far as educating others in the dynamics of demographic forecasting and to Nancy Settle for her support and the CCPA members of the County over the last two years and the authors—Chris Williamson of Oxnard, who wrote the Decapolis Report and Debby Millais, who wrote the Vacant Land Study.

Last Fall 2006, via SCAG, a questionnaire was received from the DOF that they were about to begin their 2050 Forecast and they asked the planners about future demographic factors, such as: ethnicity; in-migration; age cohorts, etc. At that time, the planners hadn’t any information to respond back with--no knowledge or opinion. SCAG finished their 2050 Forecast, which was a 39% increase to the year 2040 versus Ventura County’s 25% increase. Mr. Hocking further indicated that had they had the information they had at this time, the difference in percentages would not have been so out of kilter. It became prudent for this group of planners to become efficient and to be on the top of the situation.

Points of discussion were:

- The first professionally based forecast that the planners had ever done in Ventura County since 1978, which went to the year 2005, was only off by 4.8%;
- He believed the current project would live up to those expectations barring a depression or war, etc.;
- Process used was done through the CCPA, comprised of all the Planning Directors in the County and met every month to review, and last month the

CCPA ratified the compilation of information for this meeting, of which there were two parts of the 2040 Forecast—Part 1: is the Decapolis, authored by Chris Williamson, Senior Planner, Oxnard, and Part 2: Authored by Debby Millais, Ventura County Planning, which is called the Vacant Land Study, an update of a study done in 2001; and

- CCPA recommended that the day the VCOG Board adopted the Forecast, the one developed as the VCOG Forecast, that was covered at the end of the report and labeled *Forecast # 3* at the beginning of the report.

At this time, Mr. Hocking introduced Chris Williamson, who was to be followed by Ms. Millais. Mr. Williamson provided PowerPoint presentation “VCOG 2040 Population Projection / Forecast,” which included each of the 10 cities in the County’s general plan capacity projection (#3) and also the recommended forecasts. There was not a standardized methodology that everyone followed for that particular projection. Those numbers for each of the cities would go back to the individual planning officials who reached those numbers.

Subsequent to Chris Williamson’s presentation, questions were fielded from:

- Member Morales, who inquired as to DOF numbers, and asked how accurate those figures were, to which Mr. Williamson responded that DOF projections tended to rely on trends, which was also true of the state, but traditionally had looked at growth trends for the past 30 years and these numbers would continue and then be higher for counties that try to change their growth. The DOF’s accuracy was very good at the state level and historically had been within a couple of percentage points of the total state population, and were not very good with intra-county numbers, which they have admitted—low in some, especially in 1999-2000 they underestimated growth in the Sierra counties when there were a lot of people interested in living in the foothills of the Sierras. DOF overestimated growth in Ventura County and some other urban counties where households were getting smaller and the assumptions they used changed. The DOF’s assumptions were different and that was why they had a different number.
- Member McDonald asked if the numbers Mr. Williamson proposed that VCOG accept or adopt at this meeting were based on the General Plan numbers, and touched on SOAR a bit at this meeting. She inquired as to whether or not SOAR would be in place in 2050. Mr. Williamson responded that those figures would probably be in place until the next projection in 2015 or 2017 since it was close to the initial end of SOAR for most cities, the decision-makers and the public may have a different feel for the future. No one wanted to make that decision at this time, as the numbers tend to take on a life of their own when they go out to the public. The group did not want to bind a City Council to take on an expectation. Nancy Settle added that whether one looks at that number or not, one has to take into consideration whether or not the glass (figuratively) is going to fill out or up, and Ms. Millais’ presentation that followed would bring that to light. The SOAR boundaries will hit, but will they go up or out? Member McDonald added that when you **accept** or **adopt**--an important term to her, she

indicated that she would **accept** the report, but if you would ask her to **adopt**, that would mean she would be buying into it. It would take on a life of its own, and provided the example of where would Oxnard put its 277,000 people without encroaching on the greenbelts that separate the cities of Oxnard and Camarillo and she didn't know where these people were going to be put without that happening, so it was important to her to find out how that number was arrived at. She was not certain she wanted to **adopt** anything that would use a factor of SOAR's not being in place, or even imply that SOAR would be out of the picture.

- Mr. Williamson responded to Member McDonald's issues, and indicated that the group was purposefully silent on SOAR, not wanting to get into that on this type of document. The assumption was that this number of people under this projection would go somewhere and it could go outside SOAR—even now if the voters approved it.
- Chair Holden commented that the process that VCOG took in the RHNA process was apparent that most cities were more concerned about taking less than more and if VCOG were to hear from the Alliance too, they would talk about how everyone wanted their greenbelts and their green yards with single-family detached homes, and the reality was that VCOG was headed for a growth that was going to occur, and (rhetorically) “where's it going to go?” The numbers are not received as positive when talk of growing to 277,000, they're received from the perspective of there was a certain amount of growth and the RHNA numbers that VCOG assigned to each other, that were agreed on and would occur, and the idea that one city would take some of Oxnard's numbers, etc., simply meant that one cannot have it both ways. We can't have the large greenbelts and everything that we want to have, and low-density developments, and no vertical developments.
- Member Morehouse commented that he wanted to address Mayor McDonald's comment about adoption. This was SCAG funding that went through VCTC, and the County did the work and it's VCOG's task to give it their blessing. He asked, “The application of these numbers are for what?” “Why are we doing this?” The reason we **adopt** was because they were to be applied to something that had another implication, and asked if this assumption was correct. Nancy Settle responded that these numbers come back for SCAG's Forecast—and this was what the cities in Ventura County must do—SCAG must come back with this Forecast in order to comply with the regional transportation planning that goes on and all the lists of projects that each jurisdiction had within that jurisdiction. They create a forecast and you get that forecast whether or not you take any action on it. The last forecast that we had only allowed us to look at the numbers, as we did not have the funding to delve into that. It gets used there, and in the AQMP at the SCAG level, as well as at the County level and then it ultimately gets used by VCTC, and all those numbers are generated by SCAG without the opportunity to do what they have done there.
- Member Miller asked that on the Staff Report, second paragraph, it referred to Santa Paula, Camarillo and Oxnard City Councils in review of the numbers and stated that “action was not considered necessary for the rest”

and he was curious as to why not. Mr. Hocking responded that it would be best to take to the corresponding Planning Directors of those communities to decide whether they wanted to take to their Councils. They thought that the numbers were close enough to their General Plan that they were not a deviation that was large enough to take to those Cities' Councils. A number of the Cities' numbers were so tied into the General Plans that it was a "given."

- Member Miller inquired as to the comfort level of Simi staff that they did not feel the need to come to the Council for review. Ms. Settle and Mr. Hocking confirmed in the affirmative.
- Mr. Hocking further stated that VCTC was gearing up its Transportation Forecasting Model and were glad to have these actual census track levels approved by this board; otherwise, they would have done the same thing—hired a consultant to figure out somehow what to use. The other practical use would be the next time the County would do a General Plan; they would use those numbers as well. These were the numbers that were authorized by the regional body (VCOG) to use, and that had been the history in the County.
- Member Morales inquired as to what would be a significant difference in percentage. For example, 15.5 – 15.7% was not a significant difference, but between 15.5 and 20%, that's seems a significant difference. Mr. Williamson replied that there was error around every number and that he would not worry about 3 or 4% differences as they were basically the same number in the year 2020 and the year 2040, 7 – 8% was close enough to be the same number in the entire process. 10% was beginning to be in that gray area—something had changed between those two projections. Ms. Morales replied that when one considers the longer life spans and injects those into these numbers that it represented a huge difference. Mr. Williamson responded that there was one note of caution in the assumption that was somewhat misleading in that the only way to do it in the computer was to say that people are living 30% longer, beginning in 2005. It inflated the numbers in the early years because you would expect increased numbers in life spans to occur gradually, and thus the numbers were somewhat overstated for 2020. It was a gradual trend. For 2040, 35 years ago, life spans were 10% shorter.
- Member Holden commented that all the projections and variables trying to fit into the puzzle were to make sure of accuracy and having used just straight birth and death rates, without the in-migration—even the lowest project is 979,000. As a body, if VCOG doesn't plan for transportation as cities in a county, and one city takes more, one less, transportation still has to be accounted for, as well as housing and jobs, and it was his opinion that the County would be better off for it. Although VCOG may not like the news, it begs to be planned for.
- Member Conaway commented that he didn't see this report as a mandate to achieve this forecast and adopt at this meeting; rather, good information to help VCOG work together on a regional basis to solve some of their forthcoming issues.

Mr. Hocking mentioned that Supervisor Bennett's office had some concerns with Paragraph 1 on Page 25 and asked for clarification to the way it was written which was discussed with Debra Varnado prior to the meeting. All agreed that the paragraph would be rewritten, presented to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday and re-inserted into VCOG's next packet in the old and corrected versions.

Debby Millais presented the ***Vacant Land Study***, an update of the 2002 Vacant Land Study. Methodology used was that of taking the 2002 vacant land inventory from that and updated from the extent she could from her own personal knowledge and distributed around to the 10 cities to have them knock out land that had been developed and to update to 2008. One difference in this study than in the 2002 Study was the inclusion of the unincorporated County. The original addressed only the 10 cities.

To add clarity, Debby indicated that her study addressed to 2035, while Chris's to 2040.

Member Morehouse commented that at SCAG on March 6, 2008, the Regional Council adopted a growth forecast. He hoped for a larger interest in participation in SCAG activities with VCOG members.

Member Holden inquired as to why VCOG wasn't part of the process and why they weren't involved in the process. He asked why typically that wouldn't have been brought to the board as part of the process and why it wasn't discussed prior to Member Morehouse's going down to SCAG last week.

Ms. Varnado indicated that it did come to VCOG in the form of the RTP on a couple of different occasions. The RTP was brought before the board.

Member Morehouse concurred that it was in that form but not in that specific forecast.

Ms. Varnado added that the numbers that were in the Forecast were local numbers that were submitted by the local jurisdictions.

Member McDonald motioned to adopt, Member Glancy seconded, approved unanimously by voice vote.

- B. **Update on VCOG/Ventura County Civic Alliance (VCCA) "Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County" Project:** Ms. Varnado provided information that SCAG was experiencing budget problems and therefore made decisions to not fund the sub-regional projects, which would affect Phase II of this project that was authorized to submit the application to SCAG. VCOG could look for other options

or leave it as is. Member Holden suggested bringing options back at a future meeting.

Rebecca Evans provided Phase I report and indicated that as of a couple of weeks ago, was listed as a project to move forward for funding and it was the only sub-region new project that was moving forward. They were impressed with the work on Phase I and interested in working in Ventura County and then the funding situation broke.

Fregonese Calthorpe produced the printed report that was provided to all in their meeting packet. VCCA would like to set up presentations as well as the local compact process with the local City Councils.

This report was based on SCAG's 2035 Forecast. A compact is how you might want to deal with what is forecasted to occur. The basis for the information on a compact is contained within the Phase I: A Compact for a Sustainable Ventura County.

Ms. Evans wanted to know of VCOG members interested in participating further in the VCCA process.

Member Aguirre commented that we must consider partnering with organizations such as the Civic Alliance that are ready to do the work and provide the input that VCOG needs to make in regional decisions. He felt it would be an error on the part of VCOG to not continue to participate—VCOG needs to keep its hand on that pulse so that VCOG can make better decisions.

Member Morehouse thanked Rebecca and the Civic Alliance.

Member McDonald suggested exploring ways to find funding sources.

Chair Holden would like to see a process that creates a report that integrates electeds and policy makers. Chair Holden suggested that it be moved forward as an Agenda Item to seek possible funding options in Phase II. Chair Holden inquired as to how VCOG wanted to participate at the level of VCOG in the Alliance as appointed members, and felt it would go a long way to separate the entities, as was discussed in the past meetings.

- C. **2008 VCOG Annual Meeting**: June 26 at the Topa Tower Club in Oxnard, and the Speaker would be CSUCI President, Dr. Rush.
- D. **FY 2008/09**: Recommended increase for the coming Fiscal Year of \$13,000, which would cover administrative compensation for Assistant Staff, as well as support by the City of Santa Paula, and included an increase for the contingency plan for things such as the Graffiti Summit in December—a task that there was no budget for. The fund balance would be depleted by the end of June 30, 2008.

Member Glancy motioned to approve and Member Morales seconded, received unanimously.

9. **AGENCY REPORTS:**

A. **Southern California Association of Governments:** Debra Varnado reported that Linda Jones from SCAG had to leave the meeting early, but wanted to extend an invitation to VCOG for some upcoming conferences: 1) March 20, 2008, Regional Transit Conference which was to be held in downtown L. A., and 2) 8th Annual Regional Housing Conference, to be held in May 2008 in Riverside.

Member Morehouse commented that under the leadership of Hasan Ikhata SCAG would be trying to get some sub-offices out to make better connections.

B. **Ventura County Transportation Commission:** Mary Travers from VCTC indicated that Darren Kettle, their new Executive Director, had to leave the meeting for another commitment, but he would back at the next meeting. The California Transportation Commission was going to provide about \$30 million for Rice Road. SCAG advised unofficially that it would not be getting any OWP funds in the upcoming year, but hoped that sub-regional reps would convince them how modest VCTC's requests were, compared to monoliths such as Orange County and put a few thousand dollars into Ventura County. At the Commission's meeting March 7, 2008, they authorized funding to hire a consultant to put together a funding enhancement study—such as a local sales tax; congestion pricing (i.e., toll roads), etc.

C. **League of California Cities:** None.

Member Morehouse spoke about SB 375, Steinberg RE Land Use and Transportation. This would force the hand of Land Use and Transportation. The League of CA Cities would continue to battle Steinberg on this issue.

D. **Other Agencies:** None.

10. **INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:** Debra Varnado reported that SCAG's RTP comment period ended on February 19, 2008, and was on schedule to adopt in April, and was responding to comments of which they received many. VCTC did submit comments on behalf of Ventura County and were basically related to the Rice Road Extension and change of name for the Transit System. The adoption of the RCP was delayed to October 2008. The Planning Directors would be reviewing documents and coming back to VCOG with comments. SCAG was expecting a loss of \$5 million in OWP funding this year and into the next fiscal year. They will start to focus on their core activities, including the RTP, RCP and the Compact Blueprint. Increased costs were heightened for staff over the last four years and thus there would be cutbacks and would not be funding additional projects—sub-regional or staff itself. SCAG had a large commitment to fund healthcare for retirees so it was necessary to pre-fund that and they lost both federal and non-federal grants.

A working group was pulled together for the Graffiti Ordinance to progress the work that started in December. That group met, and was comprised of all of the cities as well as the county. The first meeting was held on February 6, 2008 and in attendance were seven of the 10 cities, plus a Supervisor's District. The elements of a Countywide Ordinance were pulled together as well as a framework, to be taken back to the individual cities to make a decision as to what they would want inside an ordinance and from there would be handed to the attorneys for the actual preparation of the ordinance.

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

Member McDonald commented that she would like to offer would be to have Camarillo Planning staff come to VCOG to come to talk about a Redevelopment Project, and that is one of the ways they will meet their RHNA numbers is through the redevelopment of a very large shopping center into a mixed use project and to discuss the process they went through in developing the specific plan and the zone change to help plant the seeds and to show how some are meeting those requirements to grow within their cities. Their City Manager is on board with having the staff come to share with each other how cities are handling it.

Member Morehouse commented that both Propositions 98 & 99 have qualified regarding eminent domain.

12. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m. to May 8, 2008 at Camarillo City Hall.



**VENTURA COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENTS**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Wally Bobkiewicz, Interim Executive Director
SUBJECT: **Update on Implementation of 2008 Workplan**
DATE: May 8, 2008

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board of Directors receive and file this update on implementation of the 2008 Workplan.

Discussion: The following is an overview of the status of the implementation of the 2008 Workplan.

1. AB 939 Task Force: There are no issues pending on this subject.
2. Regional Housing Needs Assessment: There are no issues pending on this subject.
3. Future Governance Models: There are no issues pending on this subject.
4. Legislative Agenda: Mina Layba, Senior Analyst, City of Thousand Oaks, has provided a written report (attached).
5. Informal Gatherings of Ventura County Officials: The Board will hold its annual meeting dinner in Oxnard on June 26, 2008. Staff will provide a further update at this meeting.
6. Emergency Preparedness: There is no status report from the Board's subcommittee on this subject at this time.
7. Homeless Services: There are no issues pending on this subject.
8. Graffiti Abatement: Staff is working on a model graffiti abatement ordinance which will be on VCOG's July agenda for final approval.
9. Sustainability: This item will be discussed at today's meeting.

VCOG Legislative Committee
April 24, 2008
Meeting Notes

1. **League of California Cities Report-** Dave Mullinax, Grassroots Coordinator:

The State deficit continues to grow. Initially deficit at \$16 billion, expected to go up by another \$4 billion for a total of \$20 billion. Governor will be presenting the May Revise on May 15th.

The State Legislative Analyst, Elizabeth Hill has announced her retirement; her second in command is also retiring.

June Eminent Domain Initiatives: There is a first wave of television ads supporting Proposition 98, the Jarvis sponsored eminent domain initiative; Unfortunately the Proposition 99, the League of California Cities Initiative does not have the campaign funding to place similar television ads. There are several cable moderated debates being sponsored. "Vote by mail" begins in May which could bring in some early indications. (See attachment)

League asking for support SB 642 (Wolke) Design Build- giving cities the option to use design-build contracting to make public contracting more efficient

2. **Review of the Following:** (See attachments)

- League of California Cities Legislative Action Days Briefs on the Budget, Local Street and Road Funds, Infrastructure, and Climate Change
- National League of Cities 2008 Legislative Priorities

3. **Roundtable-** Current legislative issues cities have taken positions on or monitoring-

- AB 2270- Laird- Recycled water: water quality. Local control of self-generating water softeners.
- SB 1345- Ashburn- Public works: exemption: volunteers
- AB 793- Strickland- Property taxation: affordable housing assessments. Taxes based on current versus assessed value of deed restricted properties.
- ACR 116- Strickland- Adolfo Camarillo Memorial Highway- Naming opportunity.
- SB 1732- Romero. Local agencies- Brown Act and serial meetings.
- SB 1642- Yee. Public contracts: claims
- Discussion on LNG Gas Line Project. Thus far cities have not gotten any information about the project.

- Discussion on Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) proposal to shift state parole responsibility to counties, paying for it by taking city Proposition 172 public safety dollars, eliminating the COPS program, eliminating Booking Fee reimbursements, and shifting special district property tax dollars.
 - Discussion of the Legislative Analyst's Office recommendation to divert tax away from special districts.
4. **Committee Recommendations for Board Advocacy-** None
 5. **Next Meeting:** Thursday, June 19, 2008; a lunch meeting was suggested or 3:30 p.m. Camarillo City Hall.
 6. **Announcements:** none

Why The League Opposes Prop. 98 and Supports Prop. 99

Prop. 98 Would Undermine Local Land Use Regulations, Abolish Rent Control and Renter Protections, and Stop Water Infrastructure Projects

The apartment and mobile home park owners who are financing the Prop. 98 campaign want voters to believe that Prop. 98 is about eminent domain, but their hidden agenda is to eliminate rent control and renter protections. Prop. 98 also contains poorly drafted provisions that could stop future water projects entirely, delay all public works projects, destroy local land-use regulations and erode environmental protections. A broad coalition of groups including **AARP, California Chamber of Commerce, League of Women Voters of California, California Police Chiefs Association, Association of California Water Agencies, National Wildlife Federation**, and hundreds of other organizations who don't normally agree on the issues - all OPPOSE Prop. 98, which would:

- × **Undermine Land Use and Environmental Protections.** In the definitions section is a clause that would prohibit laws and regulations that "*transfer economic benefit to one or more private persons at the expense of the private owner.*" Because the courts have ruled that virtually all land-use decisions and environmental laws transfer economic benefit from one party to another, Prop. 98 would prohibit or require compensation for the enforcement of countless local land use regulations and other laws that protect our land, air, water and laws that protect our neighborhoods and home values.
- × **Eliminate rent control and other renter protection laws.** The true purpose of Prop. 98 is to abolish rent control in California – making it extremely difficult for thousands of seniors and widows on fixed incomes, single mothers and working families to find adequate housing they can afford. The measure would also gut renter protection laws, such as laws requiring the fair return of rental deposits and laws requiring 60-day notice before forcing tenants out.
- × **Threaten water quality and supply and other public works projects.** Drafting errors in Proposition 98 would be locked into the Constitution and could prohibit the acquisition of land and water through eminent domain to develop *public* water projects – threatening many future water projects intended to preserve clean drinking water, protect existing water resources, and secure additional water supply. The Association of California Water Agencies says Prop. 98 "*could derail needed groundwater and surface water storage projects around the state*" and calls this flaw in the measure "*cause for alarm.*" The Metropolitan Water District (MWD) and San Diego County Water Agency recently opposed Prop. 98 for the same reason. Prop. 98 also will raise the cost and delay the acquisition of property for all public works projects—something California can ill-afford as it embarks on a new infrastructure program.

Proposition 99 - The Homeowners Protection Act

Prop. 99 is supported by a broad coalition of homeowners, business, labor, cities, counties and environmentalists who want straightforward eminent domain reform that gets right to the heart of the infamous *Kelo* decision by protecting a single-family home from eminent domain to transfer to a private developer. The League strongly supports this measure.

For more information on how you can help, see your League Regional Public Affairs Manager or go to: <http://www.no98yes99.com/>

2008 Legislative Action Days, April 16 & 17

The Issue: State Budget

On Jan. 8, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said in his State of the State address:

"It used to be that Sacramento plugged its deficits by just grabbing money anywhere it could; pension funds, local government, bonds, gas taxes that were meant for transportation. But we tightened that noose by taking away those options. We passed Proposition 1A, Proposition 58, and Proposition 42. We now have no way out except to face our budget demons."

The Governor proposed a two-pronged approach to deal with both the projected budget deficit for FY 2007-08 (current fiscal year) and the structural deficit in FY 2008-09 (next fiscal year).

Prong one: He declared a fiscal emergency, announced his intent to sell the remaining \$3.3 billion in Economic Recovery Bonds, and proposed a package of mid-year adjustments which the Legislature in late February. To address cash flow issues, these adjustments included deferral of \$500 million in local Highway Users Tax.

Prong two: The Governor's proposed FY 2008-09 budget is based upon a 10 percent across-the-board cut to state agencies and programs and proposed a constitutional amendment. The Budget Stabilization Act would cap spending when revenues are high, transferring the excess revenues to a reserve fund to backfill state revenue shortfalls in future years.

The proposed 10 percent cuts would directly impact cities by reducing booking fee reimbursements, the Citizens Option for Public Safety (COPS)/Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act Program, the Williamson Act and more. These cuts reflect the identical level of reduction as most other state programs. Many local officials are concerned about the proposed early release of prisoners and state park closures.

Key Messages

The Economic Downturn Hurts Both Local and State Budgets: The widespread economic downturn has had a devastating impact on city budgets. Recent revenue decreases in local property tax, sales tax and fees charged for services has forced many cities to cut critical programs and even lay off city employees. *City officials recognize that the same forces affecting their budgets have put the state in a similar budget challenge.*

Support the Principle of Proposition 1A: City officials greatly appreciate that neither Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed budget nor the Legislative Analyst's "alternative budget" proposes to divert city property taxes as part of the state budget solution. When Proposition 1A was approved in 2004 with more than 84 percent of the vote, it was clear that voters agreed with the importance retaining local funds for police, fire, library, parks and other community services. *State diversions of local tax dollars creates distrust in government, leading to a tightening spiral of voter initiatives.*

Oppose Proposals That Take City Money to Fund State Program Responsibilities: Cities recognize that exploring options to realign or reorganize state services is an appropriate policy discussion given the current fiscal crisis. However, when the state realigns responsibility to another level of government, it should also shift the specific state revenues to fund the program. *Legislators should reject the Legislative Analyst's recent proposal to shift state parole responsibility to counties and pay for it by taking city Proposition 172 public safety dollars, eliminating the COPS program, eliminating Booking Fee reimbursements, and shifting special district property tax dollars.*

Support Solutions that Restore Budgetary Stability: Cities support efforts by the Legislature and the Administration to develop permanent solutions to the state budget deficit in both the short and long term. The recent "boom and bust" cycles in the state budget creates an unstable environment where it is difficult for all involved to effectively plan. *The state faces too many challenges to not have a better fiscal game plan for its future.*

2008 Legislative Action Days, April 16 & 17

The Issue: Infrastructure Bond Allocation and Economic Stimulus

The 2006 State Infrastructure Bond Package includes funding for local projects. Funding appropriated in FY 2007-08 is just beginning to be allocated. Additional 2006 infrastructure bond funds are proposed to be appropriated in FY 2008-09. Programs of significant interest to California cities are:

Local Street and Road Funds: \$950 million was appropriated from Proposition 1B in FY 2007-08 to cities and counties from the Local Street and Road Program. Specifically, \$550 million was designated for cities. The State Controller disperses the funds to cities on a per a per-capita formula included in Prop. 1B. The formula provides a minimum funding level of \$400,000 for each city. Prior to receiving an allocation, local governments must submit a list of projects expected to be funded with these funds to the Department of Finance (DOF). The DOF reports monthly to the Controller, which issues checks to cities around the 15th of each month.

Funding for Housing and Infill Infrastructure: Prop. 1C allocates \$2.85 billion for housing and infrastructure projects. Approximately half of the bond, \$1.4 billion, is designated for infill infrastructure (\$850 million), parks associated with housing development (\$200 million), transit-oriented development (\$300 million), and innovative programs (\$100 million).

Funding for Parks and Planning: Prop. 84 designates \$400 million for parks in disadvantaged areas and \$90 million each for community planning and urban greening projects.

Key Messages

Infrastructure Bond Allocation Can Stimulate the Economy: Cities encourage the Legislature to expedite the allocation of state infrastructure bond funds. *Funding transportation, housing, infill infrastructure and parks will help spur economic activity—the demand for materials and jobs will increase, the economy will grow and revenue for state and local government will increase.*

Expedite Proposition 1B Money and Authorize Round II of Funding for Cities: The initial allocation of \$550 million in Prop. 1B funds for local transportation projects has just begun to flow to cities. The process should be sped up because cities can put this money to work quickly with the tremendous unmet need on the local transportation system. *The Legislature should appropriate the remaining \$450 million designated for city transportation projects.*

Expedite Allocation of Proposition 1C Infill Infrastructure and TOD Funds: Prop. 1C includes \$850 million for infill infrastructure and \$300 million for transit oriented development projects (TOD). Of those amounts, the FY 2007-08 budget appropriated just \$240 million for infrastructure, \$60 million for brownfields and \$95 million for TOD funds. Competition for these funds for local projects will be intense. *The Legislature should appropriate the balance of these funds so that they may be distributed to qualifying projects.*

Expedite Allocation of Park Funds: Prop. 1C contains \$200 million for parks associated with additional housing approvals. Plus, Prop. 84 contains \$400 million in funding for parks in disadvantaged communities. Unfortunately, none of these funds were allocated in the FY 2007-08 budget nor does the Governor's proposed FY 2008-09 budget propose an allocation. *Don't let these voter-approved funds be left idle—the Legislature should allocate the funding immediately with balanced and reasonable application criteria.*

Local Governments Need More Flexibility to Raise Revenue for Infrastructure: While the recent voter-approved infrastructure bonds are a positive investment for California, the state lacks the financial capacity to fully address its infrastructure backlog as well as to expand infrastructure to accommodate its projected continued rapid population growth. *State infrastructure bonds can be approved with a majority vote. Local governments need similar flexibility.*

2008 Legislative Action Days, April 16 & 17

The Issue: Climate Change and Sustainable Communities

In the last year, California has begun to implement policies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as mandated by the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32). The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is the epicenter for regulatory implementation.

During this time, most of the attention on GHG reductions from land use has focused on the attorney general's California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lawsuits and the movement of SB 375 (Steinberg). Many other "green" bills affecting issues such as land use, building standards and energy efficiency have been introduced in the Legislature.

Simultaneously the Schwarzenegger Administration started a regulatory process to reduce emissions with its interagency Climate Action Team (CAT). The Land Use Subgroup (LUSCAT) is a CAT subgroup and the League and Institute for Local Government (ILG) are advisors to this group. One issue of concern to cities is the extent to which state agencies should be developing "local government strategies" for land use, which is typically the purview of local government.

Key Messages:

Cities Need More Resources and Flexibility, Not Mandates: Cities are already leading on climate change by saving energy, expanding the use of renewable power, purchasing "green" products and more. *The Legislature and Administration need to support these positive local efforts with additional resources. Imposing new and costly mandates, especially with the budget concerns facing cities, will undercut these local efforts.*

State Regulatory Efforts Should be Closely Coordinated: Poor coordination among state regulatory efforts implementing AB 32 is a critical problem. *While individual agencies are likely to develop a solution to fit the problem they are addressing, more inter-agency communication and a broad vetting process are needed to assure that the solutions do not conflict with each other.*

Proposals Affecting Land Use Must be Balanced and Realistic: The state is not the lead on land use. Thus, proposals must be carefully considered and balanced against a variety of related factors. If more infill development is part of the solution, then legislation must address how to finance the infrastructure necessary to serve the infill. Fees on new development are not enough. Applying a multitude of mandates on local governments to reduce GHG emissions will not allow the necessary creativity and flexibility at the local level. *If there is a goal, give local governments the flexibility to determine how to achieve it. Support carefully considered solutions that recognize local responsibilities, market realities and available resources.*

Funding for Energy Efficient Local Government: The League is sponsoring state legislation to expedite funds from the federal Energy Efficiency Block Grant Program to smaller local governments. This is a \$10 billion, five-year program signed into law by President Bush last December. Qualifying projects include energy efficiency audits, green building, GHG analysis, street light retrofits, and solar installation on city buildings. *Support AB 2176 (Caballero) to help get additional energy efficiency dollars for local governments.*

Greening Infill/Infrastructure: "Green land use practices" really means finding ways to upgrade existing infrastructure. Sanitary sewer lines, curbs and gutters, streets and sidewalks need to be rehabilitated rather than built new. Hampered by two-thirds vote requirements, cities lack the financing tools to make this happen. The infill infrastructure program in Proposition 1C is the type of program that needs to be expanded. These funds help reduce GHG by enabling cities to approve transit-oriented development and the infrastructure that supports such development: storm water management and treatment systems, wastewater management systems and transit capital projects. *If California is serious about reducing GHG emissions it needs to be serious about providing the tools to local government to upgrade and expand infill infrastructure.*

2008 Legislative Action Days, April 16 & 17

Cities Should Apply for Prop. 1B Local Street and Road Funds Now!

As of this week, 235 cities have received their FY 2007-08 Proposition 1B Local Street and Road funds according to the California Department of Finance (DOF).

Cities that have not already submitted their applications for Prop. 1B Local Street and Road funds should do so immediately.

DOF sent all California cities a letter in January with Prop. 1B application instructions as well as a list detailing each city's proportional share of the funds.

These materials, along with the Prop. 1B Implementation Guidelines, and a city-by-city list of funds, are posted on the infrastructure page of the League's Web site at www.cacities.org/infrastructure.

ready to do our part, but these issues demand your problem solving and a federal partnership. The answers to these challenges will help determine the type of country we will be living in during the next 20 years. We cannot delay."

- NLC President Cynthia McCollum, Council Member, Madison, AL

Core Principles

Avoid Unfunded Mandates

The federal government should avoid policies that impose disproportionate responsibilities on local governments or increased financial liability without recognizing the fiscal impact of those policies. In particular, federal policies should not mandate new costs for local governments without providing adequate funds to reimburse local governments for these new mandates.

Preserve Local Authority

Activities such as franchising, zoning, issuing permits and licenses, and local code development are fundamental responsibilities of local governments. Federal policies should not undermine these activities or preempt local authority to protect the health, safety and welfare of local residents. Furthermore, preemptive policies constrain the ability of local elected officials to tailor policies to local needs and demands.

Protect the Intergovernmental Partnership

The intergovernmental partnership must be strengthened to provide a framework of economic growth that balances the critical role of each level of government in the economic health of the nation, while also preserving important principles of federalism.

Cities and Towns Play a Critical Role

- Hometown America is where seven out of 10 Americans live, work and play in their rural, urban and suburban communities.
- Cities and towns are the heart of America's economy, generating more than 90 percent of the nation's economic output.
- Due to increased demands and tight budgets, cities and towns have become the great innovators of this century. We know what works and what doesn't.
- Local governments provide services 24/7 – collecting the trash, maintaining the streets and sidewalks, protecting against crime, installing the street lights, and much, much more.
- Your constituents are *our* constituents.

The National League of Cities (NLC) is the nation's oldest and largest organization devoted to strengthening and promoting cities as centers of opportunity, leadership and governance. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 U.S. cities, towns and villages, which collectively serve 218 million people.



National League of Cities
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004
www.nlc.org



National League of Cities

2008 Legislative Priorities



America's Cities and Towns Call on the 110th Congress to...

Support Local Energy Efficiency and Conservation Efforts

For years, our nation's cities and towns have been leading the way in innovation by implementing energy conservation and environmental protection programs to support their communities and the national economy. Today sustainability is a defining issue of our time, with challenges including the threat of climate change, rising energy prices, and the depletion of natural resources. Local governments recognize they have a central role to play in developing solutions to meet the challenges by continuing to promote and implement building and home energy conservation programs, energy audits, fuel conservation programs, building retrofits to increase energy efficiency, "smart growth" planning and building more sustainable energy programs.

The National League of Cities supports the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, as well as broader congressional efforts aimed at moving the United States towards greater energy independence and security, increasing the production of clean, renewable fuels, and increasing the energy efficiency of products, buildings, and vehicles.

The National League of Cities urges Congress to:

- Restore and protect funding for proven public safety programs, including the Community Oriented Policing Services program, Byrne Justice Assistance Grants, and other state and local law enforcement assistance programs that are essential resources for fighting crime.

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- Restore and protect funding for proven public safety programs, including the Community Oriented Policing Services program, Byrne Justice Assistance Grants, and other state and local law enforcement assistance programs that are essential resources for fighting crime.

Without change, the nation's transportation system assets will further deteriorate. The federal government, the states, and local governments must continue to be full partners together in maintaining and developing our nation's transportation infrastructure system. The National League of Cities urges Congress to:

- Fund federal transportation infrastructure programs that support bridges, roads, highways and Amtrak at the authorized levels.
- Recognize the central role of transportation to metropolitan economies and include the local government perspective in the upcoming transportation reauthorization debate.

Reform the Country's Immigration System

Historically, the cities and towns of the United States have been a melting pot of multiple cultures and nationalities. When admitted through a well-regulated system, immigrants strengthen the United States by creating economic opportunities, increasing America's scientific and cultural resources, strengthening our ties with other nations, fulfilling humanitarian commitments, and supporting family ties and family values that are necessary to build strong communities.

However, the failure of the federal government to secure the borders, track visa recipients in the interior, or enforce worksite laws has allowed illegal immigration to thrive and has led to a patchwork of complex laws, standards, and procedures at the state and local government levels. The dysfunction created by the lack of clarity at the federal level and the tension created by this polarizing issue are unacceptable. Reform of the nation's immigration system has become a national imperative and federal leadership on this issue is overdue.

The National League of Cities continues to call upon Congress to enact reform that addresses and includes: border security and interior enforcement; workplace enforcement; guest worker provisions; legalization of undocumented workers currently in the U.S.; a path to citizenship for immigrants now in the country; and resources to alleviate the local impact of serving new immigrants.

The National League of Cities supports legislation that:

- Protects homebuyers from predatory lending and ensures that mortgage loans are suited to the financial means of the homebuyer.
- Ensures the availability of capital for mortgage financing and refinancing and encourages lenders and loan servicers to workout unsound loans as an alternative to foreclosure.

Support Safe Communities

The annual Federal Bureau of Investigation Unified Crime Report showed violent crime increased 2.3 percent in 2005 and rose again 1.3 percent in 2006. This marks the first two-year increase in violent crime in 15 years. Some cities and towns experienced double-digit or even triple-digit percentage increases in homicides and other violence during this time. Despite these disturbing trends, federal funds for innovative local crime prevention programs continue to be targeted for budget cuts; even the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2009 calls for slashing \$1 billion in crime prevention and enforcement programs. Failure to fund federal crime prevention and law enforcement programs will harm capabilities of law enforcement agencies nationwide and may ultimately lead to more crime and violence in our hometowns and less security for our homeland.

The National League of Cities urges Congress to:

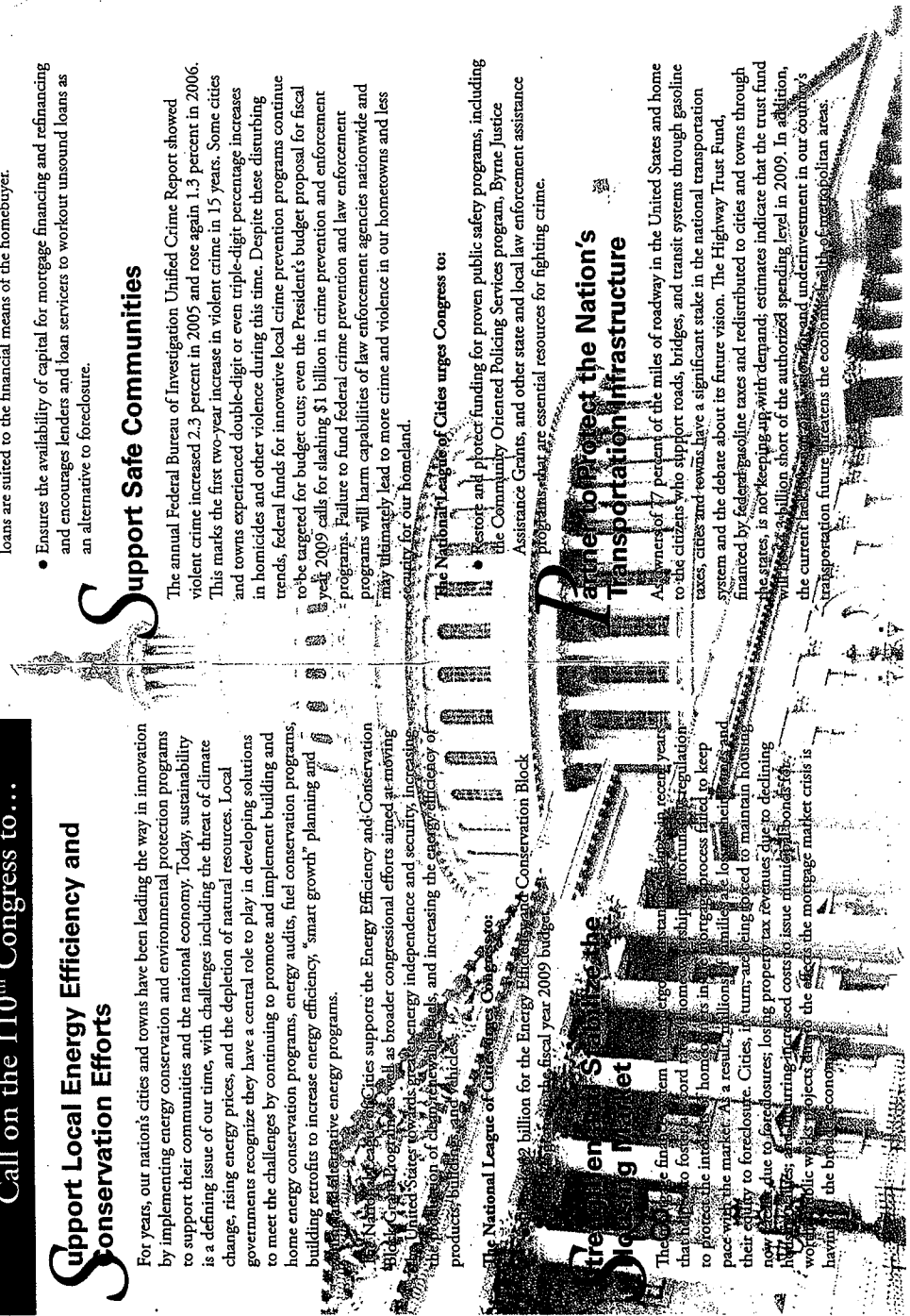
- Restore and protect funding for proven public safety programs, including the Community Oriented Policing Services program, Byrne Justice Assistance Grants, and other state and local law enforcement assistance programs that are essential resources for fighting crime.

States to Protect the Nation's Transportation Infrastructure

As owners of 77 percent of the miles of roadway in the United States and home to the citizens who support roads, bridges, and transit systems through gasoline taxes, cities and towns have a significant stake in the national transportation system and the debate about its future vision. The Highway Trust Fund, financed by federal gasoline taxes and redistributed to cities and towns through the states, is not keeping up with demand; estimates indicate that the trust fund will be \$3 billion short of the authorized spending level in 2009. In addition, the current lack of federal investment and underinvestment in our country's transportation future threatens the economic health of metropolitan areas.

States to Protect the Nation's Transportation Infrastructure

The current financial strain on state and local governments in recent years has led to a focus on cutting costs in order to maintain their services and to protect the interests of home owners in the mortgage process failed to keep pace with the market. As a result, millions of home owners are being forced to maintain housing new homes due to foreclosures; losing property tax revenues due to declining home values; and incurring increased costs to issue municipal bonds to work on public works projects due to the effects of the mortgage market crisis is having the biggest economic impact on the nation's economy.



TO: Ventura Council of Governments

FROM: Nancy Settle, Manager,
Regional Plans Section
Ventura County Planning

SUBJECT: 2040 POPULATION, HOUSING UNITS AND
EMPLOYMENT FORECASTS- AMENDMENTS PURSUANT
TO VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ADOPTION

DATE: May 8, 2008

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board of Directors: **1. Accept minor amendments approved by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors to the VCOG accepted Decapolis report (March 13, 2008)**

Discussion:

The VCOG adopted planning forecast to 2040 is the General Plan Capacity Forecast. Acceptance of these amendments will not change this Forecast. Attached are the three pages of the Decapolis with changes in legislative format as approved by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors. Below is a description of the changes.

Page 1 (page 19 in the report). The changes in the first paragraph are primarily changing "housing" to "households." "Housing" refers to dwelling units, while "households" refers to population. The vacancy rate of the city is used to convert dwelling units into households.

The last sentence in paragraph 1 clarifies how the "Jobs-Households Ratio Adjusted" alterations were made.

Table 28. Again, "Housing" is changed to "Households."

Some numbers were also corrected: Oxnard recently changed their population projection, revising it downward significantly, but this change was left out.

Also, the Port Hueneme jobs numbers have been changed. Staff worked with the Port Hueneme Planning Director to make these corrections.

Footnotes. It was noted that the method for calculating jobs-households ratio adjustments was not clear, therefore the two footnotes were added.

Page 3 (page 21 in the report). Second paragraph. Again "housing" was changed to "households," and the projected household growth was revised to match the new numbers, after the Oxnard revision.

The last part of this paragraph was more confusing than helpful, so it was deleted.

It is recommended that VCOG accept the attached amendments.

8. JOBS-HOUSEHOLDS RATIO ADJUSTED

The final projection is based on the vacant land study prepared by County of Ventura planning staff for the 2005 to 2035 period (Part II) that focuses on the availability of residential and commercial/industrial vacant land to accommodate growth and, in addition, examines resulting jobs-households ratios for each jurisdiction. Projection 8 then alters the households and/or jobs added between 2005 and 2035 to move each jurisdiction into jobs/households ratio that falls between 1.10 and 1.34. This was done by reducing the projected household growth, if the jurisdiction was housing-rich, or by reducing the projected jobs growth, if the jurisdiction was jobs-rich. These adjustments are made on a purely theoretical basis, to see the extent of the changes that would be needed to bring the jurisdictions into jobs-households balance.

Jobs/Households Balance Issues

In considering the jobs-households balance factor, there are two factors that complicate the situation somewhat:

The SCAG-approved equilibrium range of 1.10 to 1.34 that is used in this study may need to be reconsidered. This ratio range has been in use for some time; it may be appropriate to review it in terms of current jobs-households patterns, as well as Ventura County's needs, since the ratio is for the entire SCAG area. The County's unusual pattern of individual cities bound by SOAR/CURB boundaries, and separated from each other by agriculture, open space, and greenbelts, may require a different approach.

City boundaries versus "jobs sheds". This study looks at the jobs-households balance by city boundary; in other words, whether jobs and households were balanced within those boundaries. However, it may be more realistic to consider this balance in terms of a "jobs shed" concept. For jobs-households balance purposes, city boundaries are relatively arbitrary limits. For example, from a jobs-households balance perspective, the Cities of Oxnard and Port Hueneme could be considered as a single jobs-households unit, since they are so close together. It can reasonably be argued that an employee could commute more easily from Oxnard to Port Hueneme (or vice versa) than from one end of Thousand Oaks, or Simi Valley, to the other end of the same city.

Unfortunately, it is outside the parameters of this study to identify and define functional "jobs sheds" for the County and its cities. A previous study, the "Economic/Transit/Mixed Use Strategies for Housing Rich Communities," prepared in June 2004, looked at some of these issues.

Camarillo

Neighboring unincorporated residential areas such as Las Posas Estates, the Santa Rosa Valley, and the Heights should be considered part of the city's jobs-households balance area. It is outside the scope of this study to identify and define such areas, and to calculate the resulting jobs-households balance. However, it should be noted that the

presence of these residential communities adjacent to Camarillo would bring its jobs-households ratio much closer to equilibrium, or possibly to within the equilibrium range.

Oxnard/Port Hueneme

It should also be noted that the Cities of Oxnard and Port Hueneme are functionally a single jobs-housing unit, since they are so close together. With Oxnard being in the low, housing-rich end of the range, and Port Hueneme being noticeably jobs-rich, their combined equilibrium is more balanced.

Thousand Oaks

The City of Thousand Oaks, together with adjacent unincorporated communities, unincorporated islands and the neighboring City of Westlake Village (in Los Angeles County) might reasonably be considered as part of a single “jobs shed” since they are so close together. The adjacent unincorporated communities include Ventu Park, Kelly Estates and Oak Park and the unincorporated islands include Casa Conejo, Lynn Ranch and Rolling Oaks. It should be pointed out that the proximity of these largely residential areas to the City of Thousand Oaks would effectively bring its jobs-households ratio much closer to equilibrium, or perhaps within that range.

Jurisdiction	Additional Households Capacity	Additional Households Projected	Adjusted Additional Households*	Additional Jobs Capacity	Additional Jobs Projected	Adjusted Additional Jobs**	2035 Jobs Households Ratio
Camarillo	1,232	6,992	6,992	13,596	11,467	6,052	1.34
Fillmore	514	2,223	233	9,609	1,733	1,733	1.10
Moorpark	1,333	2,718	2,718	3,628	5,520	5,520	1.27
Ojai	362	1,198	1,198	726	1,483	1,483	1.21
Oxnard	9,489	22,069	22,069	37,850	21,885	21,885	1.13
Port Hueneme	25	1,293	1,293	106	4,360	4,360	2.29
Santa Paula	1,123	3,934	2,777	2,218	3,760	3,760	1.10
Simi Valley	1,188	4,590	4,590	30,198	24,522	16,474	1.34
Thousand Oaks	1,466	1,929	5,100	4,029	17,234	0	1.34
Ventura	5,510	11,621	11,621	6,198	22,632	6,500	1.34
Unincorporated County	13,530	4,531	4,590	8,603	4,342	3,979	1.34
TOTAL	35,772	63,098	63,181	116,761	118,938	71,746	
*Adjusted if necessary to bring the jurisdiction’s jobs-households ratio into equilibrium							
**Adjusted if necessary to bring the jurisdiction’s jobs-households ratio into equilibrium							

**Table 29
Population, Housing, and Jobs
Projection 8: Jobs-Households Ratio Adjusted
2040 Population Projection**

Jurisdiction	Adjusted Additional Households	2020 Persons Per Unit	2005 DOF Number of Households	2020 General Plans Population	2035 Household Population*	Total 2035 Population with GQ**	Total 2040 Population***
Camarillo	6,992	2.64	23,096	76,218	78,812	80,128	82,131
Fillmore	2,223	3.63	4,142	19,927	15,857	16,122	16,525
Moorpark	2,718	3.51	10,099	44,595	44,660	45,406	46,541
Ojai	1,198	2.50	3,158	9,560	10,800	10,981	11,255
Oxnard	22,069	3.76	47,644	236,039	266,702	271,155	277,934
Port Hueneme	1,293	2.90	7,443	22,981	25,223	25,645	26,286
Santa Paula	3,934	3.66	8,206	42,182	39,886	40,553	41,566
Simi Valley	4,590	3.09	39,136	131,894	134,682	136,931	140,354
Thousand Oaks	1,929	2.86	44,774	130,773	142,177	144,551	148,165
Ventura	11,621	2.63	39,136	121,753	132,311	134,521	137,884
Unincorporated County	4,531	3.02	30,964	103,029	106,824	108,608	111,324
TOTAL	63,098	3.08	257,798	938,951	997,934	1,014,600	1,039,965
	* Assumes 3% vacancy for Additional Housing ** Adds 1.67% for Group Quarters Population ***Assumes 0.5% annual growth in all jurisdictions for 5 years						

V. COMPARATIVE DISCUSSION

Table 30 ranks the eight projections from low to high projected 2020 population, followed by the most current DOF projection. Projection No. 1 (No In-Migration After 2010), as expected, generates the lowest population increase and serves as a benchmark for understanding the other projections. Projection No. 1 shows that the county’s total population would likely increase to 2020 by just over 100,000 based almost entirely on natural increase of the resident population. If there are no dramatic changes in birth and survival rates, out-migration, the economy, or the environment, this growth of 102,000 is basically inevitable.

Between 2020 and 2040, Ventura County would grow by an additional 66,447 people for a combined 2005 to 2040 increase of 168,624 people. After subtracting 1.67 % living in Group Quarters, dividing by a countywide household size of 3.08, and adding a modest three percent vacancy factor, this amount of population growth generates a need for 53,834 housing units.

Projection 8, Table 28, showed that the countywide capacity for housing on vacant land is about 36,000 households and that the total anticipated new households countywide is 63,098.

Projection 1 (No In-Migration After 2010) is less than Projection 2 (SCAG Economic Trend) by about 34,000 in 2020, and 102,000 in 2040. This difference may be interpreted as the “price” paid in terms of in-migrating population to fill jobs for which there is not enough local labor force. The “price” is relatively small in 2020, but grows by 2040 as more of the local labor force exits the labor force while the economy is assumed to continue to grow. In short, after 2020, some economic growth may not occur

in a pattern similar to the past if the county's population were somehow prevented from adding in-migrants after 2010.

The next lowest 2020 projected population is from Projection No. 3 (General Plans). Total population under this projection would increase by 15.5% (126,014) by 2020, then another 7.0% between 2020 and 2040, for a total increase of 23.6% (191,231) between 2005 and 2040. The total 2040 projected population of 1,002,433 is about 133,000 less than the DOF's 2040 population projection of 1,135,658.

The third lowest 2020 projected population is from Projection 8 (Jobs-Housing Ratio Adjusted) where the 2040 population is 1,077,334. Recall that this projection began with the anticipated housing growth in Projection 3 (General Plans) and adjusted both housing and jobs growth so that no jurisdiction was outside an acceptable jobs/housing ratio range. The reasoning for the adjustment is that if all communities are within the desirable range, the possibility of working within a community is maximized and cross-county commuting is minimized. Projection 8 is an exercise in evaluating the cumulative effects of future added housing and jobs within a region and, as such, is a work-in-progress.



**VENTURA COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENTS**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Wally Bobkiewicz, Interim Executive Director
SUBJECT: **FY 2008/09 Budget**
DATE: May 8, 2008

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board of Directors adopt Resolution No. 2008-01 adopting the proposed FY 2008/09 budget.

Discussion: Staff is proposing a budget that would continue operations of the organization in a similar fashion to the past year.

Staff is recommending the following changes to the budget:

1. Increasing the stipend to the City of Santa Paula from \$10,000.00 to \$12,500.00 to cover additional time for administrative support provided by City of Santa Paula staff.
2. Increasing budget for Assistant Executive Director from \$30,000 to \$32,500.
3. Creating a budget of \$5,000.00 for contract services with County Planning staff to assist in analysis of SCAG issues.
4. Continuing a Contingency Reserve of 15%.

With this proposed expenditure budget of \$74,175, I am recommending assessing member dues in FY 2008/09 of \$65,000. Breakdown of dues is attached.

The proposed budget is attached to Resolution No. 2008-01.

Attachment:

- A. Resolution No. 2008-01
- B. FY 2008/09 Dues Assessment

VENTURA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS RESOLUTION NO. 2008-01

**A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE VENTURA COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENTS ADOPTING THE FY 2008/09 BUDGET**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Ventura Council of Governments as follows:

SECTION 1: The Governing Body finds as that a budget for FY 2008/09 must be adopted to fund operations for the coming year.

SECTION 2: The Governing Body agrees to adopt the proposed budget for FY 2008/09 as detailed in Attachment A.

SECTION 3.: This Resolution will become effective immediately upon adoption and will remain effective unless repealed or superseded.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of May, 2008.

Dr. Thomas E. Holden, Chair

**Ventura Council of Governments
Proposed FY 2008/09 Budget**

	<u>FY 05/06</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>FY 06/07</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>FY 07/08</u> <u>Adopted</u>	<u>FY 07/08</u> <u>Estimated</u>	<u>FY 08/09</u> <u>Proposed</u>
REVENUES					
Membership Dues	\$0	\$9,375	\$0	\$0	\$65,000
Interest Earned	\$2,556	\$4,284	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$500
Annual Dinner Meeting	\$589	\$0	\$300	\$300	\$300
SCAG RHNA Reimbursement	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfer from Fund Balance	\$21,000	\$0	\$61,375	\$51,200	\$8,375
Total	\$24,145	\$30,535	\$62,675	\$53,500	\$74,175
EXPENDITURES					
Executive Administration	\$6,875	\$7,554	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$50,000
Administrative Support	\$231	\$0	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
Special Projects	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
RHNA Staff Support	\$0	\$15,817	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Dinner Meeting	\$8,281	\$5,224	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Web Site	\$783	\$949	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Accounting Services	\$1,000	\$750	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Supplies	\$14	\$241	\$500	\$500	\$500
Contingency Reserve	\$0	\$0	\$8,175	\$0	\$9,675
Total	\$17,184	\$30,535	\$62,675	\$53,500	\$74,175
Excess Revenues (Expenditures)	\$6,961	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fund Balance					
As of June 30, 2006	\$82,531				
FY 2006/07 Transfer	-\$30,535				
Adjustments for Receivables	\$9,565				
As of June 30, 2007	\$61,561				
FY 2007/08 Operating Transfer	-\$51,200				
As of June 30, 2008	\$10,361				
Proposed FY 2008/09 Executive Administration					
City of Santa Paula	\$12,500				
Assistant Executive Director	\$32,500				
County Planning Assistance	\$5,000				
Sub-Total	\$50,000				
Contingency Reserve	15%	\$9,675			

03-May-08

Ventura Council of Governments

Proposed FY 2008/09 Allocation of Budget (Dues) by Member

Allocation is based on \$65,000 to be spread \$16,250 evenly and \$48,750 by population.

	<u>Population</u>	<u>Percent of Total Population</u>	<u>Spread \$65,000</u>
Camarillo	65,453	7.87%	\$5,314
Fillmore	15,641	1.88%	\$2,394
Moorpark	36,814	4.43%	\$3,635
Ojai	8,156	0.98%	\$1,955
Oxnard	194,905	23.44%	\$12,903
Port Hueneme	22,202	2.67%	\$2,779
San Buenaventura	108,261	13.02%	\$7,824
Santa Paula	29,539	3.55%	\$3,209
Simi Valley	125,657	15.11%	\$8,844
Thousand Oaks	128,650	15.47%	\$9,019
County of Ventura	<u>96,309</u>	<u>11.58%</u>	<u>\$7,123</u>
	<u>831,587</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>\$65,000</u>

From the Joint Powers Authority Agreement, dues are calculated as follows:

a. Three-fourths (3/4) of all Dues shall be borne by the Entities in proportion to their respective populations. The population figures shall be those population figures set forth in the most recent Population and Housing Estimate prepared by Department of Finance of the State of California ("Estimate") as of January 1 of each year.

b. The remaining one-fourth (1/4) of such Dues shall be borne equally by the Entities

Population Estimates as of January 1, 2008

03-May-08

I. Improve the efficiency and accountability of management within the organization

A. Workforce Reduction and Restructuring

It became apparent in February that employee lay-offs would be necessary in order to balance the budget. The reasons for the lay-off can be summarized as follows: reduction in funding, over commitment without the financial ability to maintain those commitments; and insufficient attention to certain aspects of the budget. We failed to recognize the signs that we might have some budget difficulty.

The Department Directors, Chief Counsel and I worked together to determine the changes necessary. All of the staff who will be laid off were notified as of April 2, 2008. Individual meetings were held with affected staff and a staff meeting was held with all staff to provide information on the process.

In total, there are reductions of 26 positions. The reductions are agency wide, with the majority of the reductions occurring in the planning department. Lay-off decisions were made based on our business needs, the classifications impacted and seniority within the classifications, any special skill requirements, and reorganization all in accordance with SCAG Personnel Rule 7. We tried to be as fair as possible while at the same time making sure that we had the right skill set here to accomplish our agency goals.

We looked at every conceivable device such as furloughs, pay reductions, early retirement incentives, etc. in an effort to avoid a staff reduction. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources available to offer those alternatives.

No more staff reductions are anticipated in the foreseeable future. Our funding is stable through the next fiscal year, and while we have not received any word from Congress on funding for fiscal year 2010 and beyond, we are assuming for planning purposes that we will receive the same level of funding in 2010 as in 2009. We will implement a three-year budget planning cycle that is being developed by the CFO to ensure that we have safeguards in place to prevent unanticipated budget issues from happening again.

As we look toward the future, we are also making sure that our staff is aligned with what our priorities are, so some reorganization is taking place as well. While the majority of the reductions are financially related, some realignment is occurring so that SCAG is in the best position to accomplish our organizational goals and objectives such as establishing regional offices. Whenever possible, internal recruitments will be used to fill vacant positions. We anticipate more internal recruitments in the very near future.

There is no doubt that staff and management will be impacted by these reductions in terms of additional workload. We will continue to review how our resources allocate to insure that we are accomplishing our goals.

We have made arrangements to provide staff impacted with resources to assist them with this life change. The following sessions are geared towards providing resources for the staff directly impacted by the workforce reduction. Additional sessions from the Employee Assistance Program will be added in April, May and June to assist all staff with the changes that are taking place. However, the sessions below are geared towards those that have received lay off notices.

- 3/31 & 4/4 - Group and individual sessions with a licensed psychotherapist from SCAG's Employee Assistance Program will be on-site to provide information in a group setting on coping strategies for a life change such as this.

- 4/9 - The Employment Development Department (EDD) will be on site to provide information and resources for finding employment and applying for unemployment benefits.
- 4/14 & 4/15 - Ralph Anderson & Associates - a recruitment firm will be on-site to provide group information sessions on preparing resumes, cover letters and will provide interviewing tips. They will also be available for individual coaching sessions.
- Staff has been encouraged to suggest additional resources that will be helpful to them or their co-workers.

B. Conformity/RTP Status

Staff has continued to work diligently with the regional partner agencies and state and federal agencies to resolve numerous difficult issues in preparing the conformity analysis for the 2008 RTP. In recent discussions with the Air Resources Board (ARB), South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), and U.S EPA, SCAG was informed that EPA has required ARB to revise and re-submit the South Coast ozone and PM2.5 transportation emission budgets, which were used in the Draft 2008 RTP conformity analysis. This requirement dictates that SCAG make appropriate revisions to its Draft 2008 RTP conformity analysis to reflect the new emission budgets and release the Transportation Conformity Report portion of the RTP for another 30-day public review period. The original schedule for adoption of SCAG's 2008 RTP was April 3, 2008. To accommodate ARB's re-submittal of the emission budgets, the RTP hearing has been moved to the May 8th Regional Council meeting. Since the federal conformity finding on the current (2004) RTP expires on June 7, 2008, the federal agencies (EPA and FHWA) have agreed to expedite their reviews of the Final 2008 RTP.

Transportation conformity is required under the federal Clean Air Act to ensure that federally supported highway and transit project activities conform to the purpose of the State Implementation Plan (SIP). "Conformity" means that transportation activities will not cause new air quality violations, worsen existing violations, or delay timely attainment of the relevant National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The 2008 RTP must pass the following four tests to meet the requirements for a positive conformity finding: regional emissions tests, timely implementation of Transportation Control Measures (TCMs), financial constraint, and interagency consultation and public involvement.

C. CMAQ Issue

Enacted in December of 2007, the Energy Independence and Security Act (HR6) makes a significant change to the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program. Staff attorneys at the Federal Highway Administration have more recently advised that the provision enacted by Congress specifically requires that CMAQ projects be funded with a minimum federal CMAQ share of 80 percent for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009. Accordingly, this specific amendment relative to the federal share for the CMAQ program eliminates the option of higher state or local shares otherwise permitted by 23 U.S.C 120 (i). This interpretation of HR6 is of critical concern to SCAG as many of the region's CMAQ projects do not meet the minimum 80 percent provision. Preliminary findings show that SCAG regional projects programmed with up to \$152 million in CMAQ funding would need to be reprogrammed - requiring an FTIP amendment. My staff and I believe that such an interpretation limits a project sponsor's ability to flexibly approach local matches and in turn, hinders timely project delivery. This issue is of critical concern to SCAG and its regional partners. As such, my staff and I are continuing to work with the federal agencies as well as Caltrans, and our local regional partners to expeditiously resolve this matter.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR' S MONTHLY REPORT
MAY 2008**

I. Improve the efficiency and accountability of management within the organization

I would like to thank the Regional Council for their understanding during this difficult time at SCAG. To be forced to lose any of our staff members is difficult both for the agency and for the impacted employees. I want to assure the Regional Council that we are providing services and resources to those staff who were laid off and that we are taking additional steps to ensure the long-term stability of the agency.

First, let me discuss the services we are providing to SCAG staff. We want to make sure impacted staff members receive every opportunity to find new employment as quickly as possible. To help facilitate this process, we have offered staff services related to job searching and career development. Many of these services are available to all SCAG employees. In addition, we have offered one-on-one career coaching and counseling sessions for those employees who were laid off. Our hope is that all staff who were laid off will be placed either in another position at SCAG through internal recruitment opportunities, or in a new position outside SCAG very soon. Below is a summary of services that were provided to staff:

- 3/31 & 4/4 - A licensed psychotherapist provided group and individual sessions for employees on coping strategies for a life change such loss of a job.
- 4/7 - A CalPERS representative gave a presentation on the retirement process, calculating retirement benefits, service credit, options for leaving/withdrawing funds within the system and other retirement considerations.
- 4/9 - Job Resource, a non-profit training organization that works with the Employment Development Department, provided information and resources for finding employment. Another workshop will be conducted in June on applying for unemployment insurance benefits.
- 4/14 & 4/15 - Ralph Anderson & Associates - a recruitment firm, provided group information sessions on preparing resumes, cover letters and interviewing tips. Individual coaching sessions were provided in which the consultants reviewed employee resumes and gave specific advice regarding job search.

We have also encouraged staff to suggest any other sessions or services they think might be helpful.

Next Steps

Attached to this Executive Director's Report, is SCAG's three-year budget forecast. There are a few items about this forecast that require further discussion. The forecast shows both our revenue and expenditures, based on the priorities for the agency. In order to determine our funding priorities, I asked the managers and directors to develop three-year plans for each division. The result shows nearly \$13 million in consultant money to be spent in fiscal year 2010 and 2011. With our projected revenue and existing staffing levels, this would result in a deficit for the agency starting in FY10. I cannot allow the agency to operate with a deficit. I also gave my word that there would be no further layoffs at this time, and I intend to keep my promise. I have asked the managers to revise their consultant budgets to focus only on a few core activities and priorities, as determined by the Regional Council and staff. I expect that this will have an impact on other areas of the agency. As a result, we may not be able to do some of the work that may be important to many of our members, our staff and me, but does not directly relate to core activities, such as transportation planning.

I want to highlight another component of the budget forecast. As a result of the layoffs, we now have 113 positions. It is important to note that our staffing levels have increased from 95 positions in 2003 to 162 positions (including temporary staff) in 2008. (Staffing Historical Trends is attached). Through attrition, I hope to reduce staffing levels further, but I want to reiterate that we do not anticipate further layoffs. Once again, these changes are likely to have an impact across agency and I would ask for your continued patience as we put the agency on the right track financially and undergo additional restructuring.