



**VENTURA COUNCIL  
OF GOVERNMENTS**

**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.