



**VENTURA COUNCIL  
OF GOVERNMENTS**

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, July 10, 2008**

**5:00 p.m.**

**City of Camarillo**

**Council Chambers**

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

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1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Holden called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

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

3. **ROLL CALL:**

Member Jan McDonald	City of Camarillo
Member Patrick Hunter	City of Moorpark
Member Tom Holden	City of Oxnard
Member Maricela Morales	City of Port Hueneme
Member Carl Morehouse	City of Ventura
Member Gabino Aguirre	City of Santa Paula
Member Tom Glancy	City of Thousand Oaks

**Absent:** Member Cities: Fillmore; Ojai; Simi Valley and County of Ventura

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Eileen Tracy, Oxnard spoke regarding prisoner re-entry.

5. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** Member Morales commented that under the Consent Calendar, related to the Legislative Committee, she wanted to share that if in fact there was to be a presentation later this year regarding the Solar and Clean Energy Act of 2008, it stated that there would be a presentation by SCE and if scheduled, she would like VCOG to also have someone there to present on the "pro" side, so that both sides are represented. Near her community, the chair of the Central Coast support for that proposal is a Councilmember in the City of Santa Barbara. She wanted that individual to be invited to share information.

Mr. Bobkiewicz responded that this issue was discussed at the Administrative Committee meeting last month and the decision was made to put the item on in September, so with the concurrence of the Board, he would meet with Councilmember Morales to find out the contact to have that individual present as well as the representatives from Edison.

Chair Holden thanked those involved in the Annual Meeting and commented that it was a nice evening.

Member Glancy apologized for almost being tardy as there was an airplane down near Santa Rosa Road and the freeway.

Member Hunter spoke, and indicated that the Board was in receipt of a letter from Assemblymember Audra Strickland, directed to Clark Kelso, Receiver. Although dated July 7, it was scheduled to be delivered to the Receiver on Tuesday, and asked that the Board take the matter up as an urgency item, as well as take this item first. A number of boardmembers had to leave early, which would enable the Board to talk about this earlier.

Member Hunter moved that this was an urgency item based on the fact that the letter was scheduled to be delivered to the Receiver on Tuesday, which would be before VCOG's next regularly scheduled meeting, the latter part of summer.

Member Morehouse seconded, and it was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Member Hunter requested that the item be added to the Agenda and if it was the Board's pleasure, that this item could be taken as the first piece of business.

Item approved unanimously by voice vote.

6. **APPROVAL OF THE FINAL AGENDA**: Approved unanimously by voice vote.

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. **Discussion of the Letter to the Assembly**: Member Hunter commented that in a letter dated July 7, 2008, signed by Assemblymember Audra Strickland to Clark Kelso, California Prison Healthcare Receivership Corporation. It was signed by a number of elected officials in Ventura County. It discussed the negative impacts of the possible conversion of the Ventura Youth Correctional Facility, which was in receivership and the Assemblymember had taken a position against the project, as had a number of elected officials throughout the County of Ventura. Member Hunter indicated that he thought it was the Board's pleasure to consider the time, preliminarily to discuss possible opposition to the project based on what little knowledge that they had thus far. That opinion could always be changed in the future, would not foreclose on VCOG's changing an opinion, but thought it would be in the best interest of their respective communities to take the position in opposition of the possible conversion.

Member Morales inquired as to those electeds that were listed but had not signed were presumed in support of the letter. Chair Hunter responded in the positive. He also believed that there were to be more names added to the list. He believed that the signature page was a work in progress and indicated that

was why one would find more than one representative for one jurisdiction and perhaps one representative from another. There was a scramble to get signatures, and to get the letter hand-delivered to the Receiver by Tuesday of the next week.

Member McDonald commented that the City of Camarillo was sending their own letter that she was taking. Camarillo would be the closest city with the greatest impact from the proposed project. She urged all to get involved by getting on the list of those agencies opposed. She thought it was important to keep it agendized until a decision had been made. She also urged the Executive Director to work with the City Managers' group to develop a strategy to inform everyone and to oppose. She added that a huge impact would be to the local healthcare system, with 1500-1800 beds within the prison system—more beds than every hospital in Ventura County, combined. 5,000 employees to consider adding to the traffic and visitors, etc.

Member Morales inquired as to the timeline in which a decision would be made.

Member McDonald replied that it was being pushed very quickly with two EIRs already ordered. The guess would be that the EIR would be out by the end of the year. The project would be a total teardown.

Member Morehouse added that his Council had not had a discussion on this matter, but had constituents discuss their concerns with him and he moved that VCOG forward the letter as requested and that it be placed on the agenda for the next month.

Chair Holden asked for clarification as to how VCOG would sign onto the letter and Member Hunter responded that it could be done either by having the Executive Director contact Ms. Strickland's office the next morning to see if VCOG's membership could get on the signature page; or, draft an independent letter signed by the Chair to be forwarded independently.

Chair Holden asked if the Mayor (VCOG members) already signed on the letter did so as individuals or the cities they represent. Member Hunter responded that on behalf of his city, their Council was not ready to take up the matter until August 20, so it was not on behalf of the Council.

Chair Holden stated that there was a motion (Morehouse) and a second (Morales) to get on the letter as VCOG as discussed or to craft a separate letter that would be signed with the listing of the cities and members.

This item was approved unanimously by voice vote.

- B. Minutes:** Motion to adopt Minutes of the May 8, 2008 meeting by Member Glancy and seconded by Member Morales.

- C. **Workplan Update:** Receive and file. Member McDonald moved to approve; Member Glancy seconded.

8. **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- A. **Presentation on Implementation of AB 32—Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 and SCAG Regional Comprehensive Plan:** Mr. Bobkiewicz introduced Jacob Lieb, a program manager from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), who had copies of the SCAG's Regional Comprehensive Plan and offered them up as references.

Mr. Lieb discussed meeting the Global Warming Act's long-term goal of an 80% reduction in emissions by 2050 would require basically the elimination of carbon-based technologies and combustion engines from California's economy and way of life. Further, he stated that the act is as profound, if not more profound than the California Environmental Quality Act, the 1970 law that established the state's system of environmental review by local governments for every sizable development project. It would affect how we do business, and will do so in some profound ways that a number of communities have not recognized as yet.

The act requires a reduction of 169 million metric tons of emissions, or a drop of close to 30%, from the projected output in 2020. Planes, trains and automobiles are responsible for more greenhouse gas emissions than any other sources, so that the bulk of the reduction will come through stricter state standards for vehicle emissions. New regulations on power plants and other industrial uses will be the next-biggest chunk. Farther down the list, at just over 1% of the total reduction, are measures taken by local governments. Still, cities and counties would have to start taking greenhouse gases into account when planning new commercial and residential developments, just as they must already consider things like water quality.

Member Morehouse commented that we are going to have to think about ways to get people out of their cars to get from point A to point B.

Member Aguirre commented on the movement of goods and people around the County. In Santa Paula the jobs housing balance is very out of kilter. It sends workers out of Santa Paula to various communities throughout the County and that puts people in their cars, moving out. It would be logical to develop more of an economic infrastructure in those areas where the workers are located. The issue also has to do with a lack of transportation, and we are being called on to face this great challenge that we have regionally and globally, and he opined that we have to do not only what our fair share is but to be innovative and move beyond that because ultimately our fair share is not going to get us there—that limits us to the kind of thinking and policies that we need to develop and he called up VCOG and SCAG to be planning agencies. The problem is much larger than any community by itself, can solve or address.

Member Morales commented that she wanted to comment further on some of Member Morehouse's comments, that more and more we are coming up against the wall of land use and the fiscalization of land use—that cities feel pushed to develop for the purpose of increasing property and sales tax. 50% of city general funds come from property and sales tax. In our (Port Hueneme's) situation, only 17% is coming from property and sales tax and they have little option, yet is part of the region and jobs rich community and contribute to the region in that way. She agreed that in looking at the AB32 issue we also need to look at how land use is driven and look at issues of revenue sharing, that we may not be able to even grapple with that, but given the seriousness of AB32 and how tied into land use it is, that we can't address one without the other.

Mr. Lieb added a comment that AB32 was a broad piece of legislation that enables the State Board to do whatever is necessary to achieve this target, and as such, is a huge revenue generator for the state. The Board (ARB) is able to impose carbon emission fees and they are able to auction the original emissions rights under cap and trade. There is a lot of money out there and he felt that ideally how it all works was to develop a policy at the regional level that when aggregated, leads to emission reduction. At the local level, you are able to incorporate some of those policies into your own activities, so on one hand you are relieved from any scrutiny on project by project decisions, and on the other hand you are also given money to make those things happen and he felt that ideally that was how it works.

Chair Holden added that regarding the transportation issue and the fiscal responsibilities of the cities, the retail does connect to the equation, but more importantly, the connection between providing jobs and residences in any future development. It would be extremely important in the future in that this County is disjointed when it comes to the amount of cars we put on the freeways in order for people to get to their jobs and back home again. Oxnard is fortunate in that it will be creating a job creating development at the same time as a residential development and tying those together in a short distance, and further commented how important that will be.

Chair Holden added that the pleasure of the Board was to continue a dialogue regarding AB32 and the coordination regionally and deferred to Mr. Bobkiewicz of how that might be accomplished.

Mr. Bobkiewicz responded that this item would come back on the November agenda.

- B. 2-1-1 Ventura County:** Erik Sternad, Executive Director, Interface Children and Family Services provided Powerpoint presentation as well as a hand out and offered data as part of the 2-1-1 Call Center, and finally, a funding proposal at the end for the Board's consideration.

Several boardmembers commented that they were looking toward the County to participate to increase its contribution, but agreed that cities do need to participate to support this very worthwhile resource.

Chair Holden asked Mr. Bobkiewicz that there was potential for the cities to participate but it was dependent on whether or not the County wants to initiate the process by stepping up to fill the gap and then looking toward the cities.

- C. **First Responder / Code Blue / Do Not Resuscitate Issue:** Member Morehouse introduced Dr. Hornstein, his personal physician, who was leading a group in the County on the topic of resuscitation and the orders not always making it out to the responders. He indicated that there was a coordinated effort with the physicians throughout the County to try to do something for those who have given directives not to be resuscitated to have a more expedient way of the first responders having access to that information.

Dr. Hornstein provided a case study of an end of life story and introduced the POLST Program—Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatments. It is a one page form that was introduced in Oregon in the mid-1990's through an interdisciplinary task force throughout the state and over a period of about four years, came out with a one-page form called the POLST document. It has a distinctive bright pink color, card stock. 95% of all patients in nursing homes now have a POLST form.

POLST has been moved on to California and he looked for support in Ventura County implementing the project. It is well on the way to do that and within the next several months, a POLST-type of form would be rolled out to all 7 hospitals in Ventura County. He mentioned a local initiative AB 3000 which he encouraged VCOG to support.

Member Glancy asked if the POLST form follows the patient, and Dr. Hornstein confirmed.

Barry Fisher, Administrator for Emergency Medical Services Agency for the County of Ventura, spoke, identifying his employer as the regulatory agency for the county. He added that from the minute you pick up 9-1-1 until the patient is delivered at the hospital, is what his agency oversees. He applauded Dr. Hornstein's efforts and advised that they (agency) currently had a statewide form for "Do Not Resuscitate", which has been in place for several years and added that there are issues such as Dr. Hornstein mentioned, such as the form not making it from the skilled nursing facility to the hospital, etc. Paramedics may arrive in the middle of the night, medical records can't be located, etc. As an agency, it was the first time he had heard of the local initiative (AB 3000), and offered his support and assistance with this initiative.

- D. **AB 793 (Strickland) Affordable Housing Tax Assessments:** Chair Holden asked Mr. Bobkiewicz if due to the hour, this item could be moved to the Legislative Committee to be acted on and Member Hunter concurred.

9. **AGENCY REPORTS:**

- A. **League of California Cities:** Dave Mullinax was grateful for the allowance to present earlier as he was under a time constraint. He spoke about the problems associated with the State's budget and a constant flow of rumors. The League was concerned that the State has taken over 5 months of the monthly Highway User Tax payments to get them over their cash flow crisis of earlier this year. Talk of implementation of Prop 1A borrowing takings as far as property tax. The Democrats did not want to do that as it would appear to be accounting gimmickry, would have to be paid back within 3 years with interest, and would really not solve the structural type of problems, etc. The Republicans all signed a "No New Taxes" pledge earlier in the year. Since it is an election year, they do not want to raise taxes, even if it would close tax loopholes. They would much rather go back to their districts and say that they didn't raise taxes, rather they borrowed all of our money—or a billion dollars or so of local tax monies.

Mr. Mullinax indicated that he had sent out a Legislative Alert from Chris McKenzie which addressed the fact that they had already borrowed money earlier this year, to make sure that the membership communicated more with letters, phone calls locally or in Sacramento about the challenges faced locally and to borrow this money is not doing the job that should be done as far as fixing their structural deficit problems. The budget problem would not be going away soon and earlier that day, at the Conference Committee, the Democrats laid out \$8 billion in tax increases proposals and the Republicans indicated they had a list of tax cuts but had not as yet laid them out. A line had been drawn in the sand, very polarized in Sacramento. We need to take a pragmatic, balanced approach and not to count balancing their budgets on our backs.

He would be happy to help with any outreach efforts and indicated further that he would be doing that in all three counties and statewide over the next several weeks and months.

He briefly discussed AB 32; AB 375 and AB 303.

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

- C. **Other Agencies:** None.

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

11. **REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** Member Morales commented that during the week, the California Secretary of Food and Ag, of which Oxnard was the host as the location for the listening session in Ventura County, as part of a statewide California Agricultural vision that he and the Board are putting together—the first ever for sustainable agriculture for California by the year 2030. As part of VCOG's sustainability workplan, she recommended that the board have a presentation

sometime in the near future of this program as part of a Foodshed Management Plans, given the interface with Los Angeles and they're being a huge consumer base there for our agriculture. She provided a flier with contact information where comments were being accepted.

12. **ADJOURNMENT:** 7:00 p.m. The next meeting to be held at 5:00 p.m., September 11, 2008 at Camarillo City Council Chambers.