



**VENTURA COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENTS**

**AGENDA
VENTURA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
(ZOOM Conference Call)**

Thursday, October 24, 2024, 2:30 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86077937190>

Meeting ID: 860 7793 7190

Agenda reports and other disclosable public records related to open session agenda items are available on the VCOG website under agenda and minutes at www.venturacog.org and at the principal VCOG business office located at 33 East High Street, Suite 200, Moorpark, California by appointment [(805) 217-9448] during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Public is invited and may attend this remote meeting using the Access Number provided above

1. Call to Order – Roll Call

COMMITTEE MEMBER REMOTE LOCATIONS:

Elaine Litster – 2929 Alamo Street, Simi Valley, CA 93063 (City Hall)
Mike Johnson- 41 N. Wake Forest Ave Ventura, CA 93003 (Residence)
Chris Enegren - 444 Zachary St # 120, Moorpark, CA 93021 (Business)
Carrie Broggie- 421 Edgewood Drive, Fillmore, 93015 (Residence)
David Tennesen – 601 Carmen Dr., Camarillo, CA, 93010 (City Hall)

2. Public Statements

3. Adoption of September 19, 2024 Committee Meeting Summary(Attached)

4 Executive Director Report

- a. Legislation Update – Report on Final Bill Action–(Attached)
- b. REAP Program Update- Chris (Attached)
- c. Broadband Update- Ad Hoc JPA Committee (See Item 5)
- d. Planning Succession –Chair-Elect- 2025
- e. Future Meeting Location Update (Proposed 2025 Meeting Schedule Attached)
- f. Executive Director Search– Notice Material (Set by Separate Message)

5. Proposed Amendment to VCOG Strategic Plan – (Council 11/14/24 Agenda Report Attached)

Adjournment- Next Committee Meeting- November 21, 2024

VCOG ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
September 19, 2024
ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL
Meeting Summary

1. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order by Chair-Johnson at 2:14 PM. Members on Zoom Call: Chair Johnson, Chair-Elect Enegren, Member-at-Large Tennessen, IP-Chair Litster Joined the meeting later.

Staff on Call: Executive Director Riley, Bill Simmons, Pacific Coast Broadband Consortium, County.

2. Public Statements – NONE

3. Approval of July 25, 2024 Meeting Summary - The meeting Summary for July 25, 2024 was examined. There were no additions or corrections and the meeting summary was approved as published..

4 Executive Director Report

- a. Legislation Update – Riley reported that AB 98 and SB 1037 had not yet been signed And AB 1960 was signed completing the unusual Retail Theft Package.
- b. REAP Program Update- Riley explained the REAP 2.0 main project involving review of all approved Housing Elements and determining what activities were common and could be combined with one project to avoid duplication of effort and save time and money.
- c. Broadband Update- Ad Hoc JPA Committee – Bill Simmons advised that the Ad Hoc Committee would be recommending that VCOG not pursue a new JPA for Broadband Administration but instead amend the VCOG Strategic Plan. The recommended amendment will be presented to the VCOG Council at the November 14, 2024 Meeting. He then reported on visits to the various cities to discuss the Regional Strategy and the status of the County's FFA application for their Last Mile Project. Simmons reported on the status of Ventura County's FAA Application. Although the application will likely be funded eventual, the announcement had not been made by the CPUC. Chair offered any assistance needed from VCOG or the City of Ventura to lobby for the project.
- d. Annual Dinner Location & Sponsors – Chair Johnson reported on the Annual Dinner son October 10 at the Ventura County Museum. He described the city's plans for the event. Evite invitations will be sent out shortly.
- e. Meeting Location Update – Riley reported that he would be visiting the Camarillo City Hall Council Chambers on September 23 to get an update on the city's progress with the remodeling. He felt he would be able to make a recommendation to the Council about their January Meeting location at the November Council Meeting.
- f. Change Next Meeting Date- Riley asked the committee to reschedule the nest committee meeting date from October 17 to October 24, 2024 Due to a Conflict with League of Cities Annual Conference. There was no objection. Riley will notify the full committee of the change.
- g. Schedule for E.D. Search and Next Steps- Work Scope- Agreement Attached- Riley reported on the proposed schedule for the Executive Director Search and a proposed survey of the VCOG Council Members and Alternates seeking their input on what they are looking for in an Executive Director. He shares the proposed schedule and survey document developed by Tripepi-Smith. Member Litster suggested a change to one of the survey questions. The committee then approved the schedule and survey. The survey will be sent to the VCOG Council in Tuesday, September 23 with a response by October 1 requested.

5. Plans for November 14, 2024 Council Meeting (Presentation Topics) The following topics were provided on the meeting agenda for consideration:

- Ventura County DA's Office- Red flag laws (gun violence restraining orders)
- Visit from Naval Base Ventura Commander – *(November)*
- Prop 4, California Climate Bond Endorsement? (Info Sheet Attached)

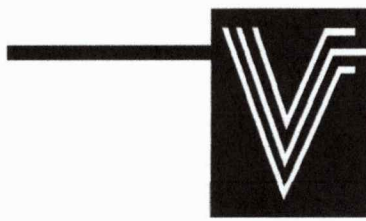
The committee discussed the options for a presentation on November 14. Riley informed the committee that the Broadband Ad Hoc Committee was recommending we not pursue a new JPA for the Broadband Project Administration but rather amend the VCOG Strategic Plan to incorporate the Broadband Activity. The recommended Amendment language will be placed on the November 4, 2024 VCOG Agenda. Riley added that he had asked the Consortium Staff to develop a brief but comprehensive report outlining the role VCOG would play in managing and implementing the Broadband for All Strategy. Riley informed the committee of a request he received from the County DA's Office to give a report on the Red flag laws (gun violence restraining orders). Litster asked if the report could include information about the proposed Family Justice Center in the east county and the opening of the Carmen Ramirez Center in Oxnard. Riley suggested the report include information on the Homeless encampment enforcement removal state mandate. Chair Johnson suggested the head of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners be included.

Bill Smith offered that a presentation from Navy Base Ventura County may be premature. He suggested that there were some things occurring about military bases intensifying community partnerships in their areas and that it may be better to wait until after the first of the year to have a report from Naval base Ventura County that could include these developments

The committee agreed to pursue a single agenda presentation item from the DA's Office including the items mentioned in the committee's discussion.

Adjournment – The conference call concluded, and the meeting adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

Next Meeting – October 24, 2024 at 2:30 PM VIA ZOOM.



**VENTURA COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENTS**

TO: VCOG Administrative Committee

FROM: Hugh Riley, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Legislation Report - Final Bill Action

DATE: October 24, 2024

AB 98- Warehouse and Truck Re-routing- Signed by Governor- 9/29/24 - AB 98 will impose sweeping, costly statewide mandates on all cities and counties on where industrial warehouses can be located and how they must operate. VCOG is dismayed that the Governor still signed this flawed legislation after hearing the concerns of more than 700 city officials, business leaders, and environmental justice groups. It was jammed through the Legislature at the 11th hour after weeks of closed-door negotiations that shut out local governments and other stakeholders from the policymaking process. Cities deserved a voice in this process. Cal Cities will be advocating for a more transparent and inclusive process next session that addresses our concerns."

Housing and Community Development Bills Approved

SB 1037 (Wiener) Signed by Governor- 9/29/19 – SB 1037

Current law requires a city or county to adopt a general plan for land use development within its boundaries that includes, among other things, a housing element. The law requires the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to determine whether the housing element is in substantial compliance with specified provisions of that law and that it is in violation of state law. This bill, in any action brought by the Attorney General or HCD to enforce the adoption of housing element revisions, as specified, or to enforce any state law that requires a city, county, or local agency to magisterially approve any planning or permitting application related to a housing development project, as specified, would subject the city, county, or local agency to specified remedies, including a civil penalty of, at minimum, \$10,000 per month, and not exceeding \$50,000 per month, for each violation, as specified and does not allow an opportunity for cities to correct an honest mistake or address a genuine difference in interpreting the law. Even those jurisdictions acting in good faith could be subject to significant fines and be required to pay the Attorney General for all costs investigating and prosecuting the action, including expert witness fees and attorney's fees.

AB 1820- (Schiavo) Signed by Governor- 9/29/22 - requires a city to provide a fee and tax estimate at the beginning of the project even before the plans have been approved that may not be adjusted with changes to the project's design. Recent amendments have addressed remaining concerns about what fees must be included in the fee and tax estimates, a timeline extension that is feasible for local governments, and legal protections that the estimates are non-legally binding and are for informational purposes only. The bill has now passed and been sent to the governor for signature. (VCOG Opposition Removed)

AB 1893 (Wicks) Signed by Governor- 9/29/19 - This bill would place guardrails on “builder’s remedy” projects; reduce affordable housing minimums; and prohibit local jurisdictions from denying certain housing developments even if they are meeting or exceeding state allocated. The bill has now passed and been sent to the governor for signature. (VCOG Opposed)

SB 937-(Wiener) Signed by Governor- 9/29/22 would limit the ability of local government to collect mitigation fees on affordable housing projects when either a certificate of occupancy is issued, or once construction commences for the projects the fees will be used for. SB 937 amends the Mitigation Fee Act, which governs the collection of development related fees that pay for the costs to install infrastructure necessary to build new homes and other developments in livable, equitable, and thriving communities. These fees pay for critical services such as water, sewer, fire protection, parks and open space, flood protection, libraries, and other essential community needs. Additionally, SB 937 generally locks in the value of those impact fees prior to the issuance of a building permit and prohibits the charging of interest or indexing for inflation on those deferred fees, undermining the buying power of local agencies. One-size-fits-all mandates, through financial and legal risk-shifting from private developers to local agencies and the communities, taxpayers, and ratepayers they serve, endanger the timely and affordable delivery of essential infrastructure and services that are required to build and maintain housing developments. (VCOG Opposed)

SB 1123 (Caballerro) Signed by Governor- 9/29/19 SB 1123 would require cities to allow the construction of up to 10 new units on a parcel that was zoned and planned for only one unit. This bill is not only inconsistent with most local zoning standards, but it is also likely to be inconsistent with the state-mandated housing element requirements. (VCOG Opposed)

SB 1211 (Skinner) Signed by Governor- 9/29/19 Current Law prohibits, if a local agency adopts an ordinance to create ADUs in those zones, the local agency from requiring the replacement of off-street parking spaces if a garage, carport, or covered parking structure is demolished in conjunction with the construction of, or is converted to, an ADU. SB 1211 would also prohibit the local agency from requiring the replacement of off-street parking spaces if an uncovered parking space is demolished in conjunction with the construction of, or is converted to, an ADU. The bill has now passed and been sent to the governor for signature. (VCOG Opposed)

AB 1886 (Alvarez) Signed by Governor- 9/29/19 - Allows the Builder’s Remedy* to begin as soon as the Department of Housing and Community Development or a court determines a jurisdiction’s housing element is out of compliance and past the due date. (VCOG Opposed)

AB 1893 (Wicks) Signed by Governor- 9/29/19 triggers the Builder’s Remedy* if a local jurisdiction is not in compliance with “Housing Element Law” and the project provides a minimum of 10% of the units for very low-income households or 100% of the units are for very low, low or moderate-income households. The bill has now passed and been sent to the governor for signature. (VCOG Opposed)

***See attached Description of “Builder’s Remedy”**

AB 2023 (Quirk-Silva) **Signed by Governor- 9/29/19** creates obstacles to meeting the statutory deadlines for housing element adoption. By adding over 90 days to the adoption process, this measure almost guarantees that housing elements will not be adopted by the statutory deadline. This is contrary to our mutual goal that all California cities adopt a housing element that complies with the statutory requirements in accordance with the statutory deadline. The bill has now passed and been sent to the governor for signature. (VCOG Opposed)

Retail Theft Bills

Lawmakers passed a rare and unprecedented package of bills that address issues that are not addressed in Proposition 36. These Bills were presented to the governor together and all have been signed! The package aims to provide the justice system with the necessary tools to address rising rates of retail theft. These bills address specific priority issues of retail theft such as repeat offenders, increasing penalties, eliminating resellers and fencing operations, and improving the ability to enforce and prosecute these offenders. Not included in the Bill Package was **AB 1960**. This bill would allow sentencing enhancements for taking, damaging or destroying property in the commission or attempted commission of a felony. The governor signed this bill.



Association of Bay Area Governments



Technical Assistance
for Local Planning
HOUSING

DISCLAIMER: This document is intended solely as a technical overview of the provisions of certain provisions of the Housing Accountability Act. It is not intended to serve as legal advice regarding any jurisdiction's specific policies or any proposed housing development project. Local staff should consult with their city attorney or county counsel when determining the applicability of these provisions to any proposed housing development project in their jurisdiction.

The “Builder’s Remedy” and Housing Elements

There have recently been press reports regarding the so-called “Builder’s Remedy” that can be used to avoid local zoning requirements when a locality’s housing element does not substantially comply with state law. These reports have stated that, if a locality has a noncompliant housing element the city or county must approve the housing development project, regardless of the local zoning.

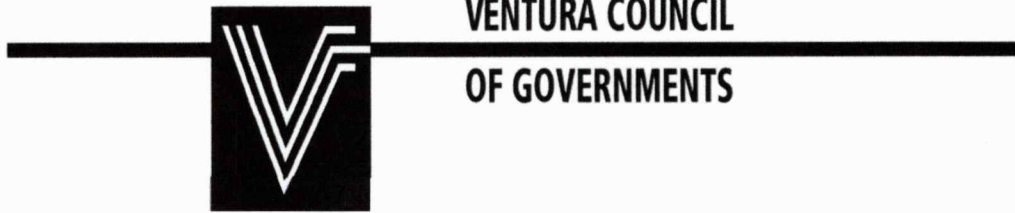
The “Builder’s Remedy” arises from the Housing Accountability Act (Government Code Section 65589.5¹; the HAA). This paper describes the provisions of the HAA that constitute the “Builder’s Remedy” and how they may apply to a proposed housing development project.

How Does the “Builder’s Remedy” Work?

The HAA requires that cities and counties make one of five findings to deny, or to apply conditions that make infeasible, a housing development project “for very low, low- or moderate-income households” or an emergency shelter. (Section 65589.5(d).) A housing development project with 20 percent of the total units available to lower income households or with all of the units available for moderate or middle income households may qualify as housing “for very low, low- or moderate income households” (see detailed description below). The five findings which would allow denial of an eligible project can be summarized as follows:

1. The city or county has met or exceeded its *Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)* for the proposed income categories in the development.
2. The housing development or emergency shelter would have a specific adverse impact on public health and safety, and there is no way to mitigate or avoid the impact without making the development unaffordable. The impact must be based on objective, written public health or safety standards in place when the application was deemed complete.
3. The denial or condition is required to meet state or federal law, and there is no feasible method to comply without making the development unaffordable.
4. The project is proposed on land zoned for agriculture or resource preservation that is surrounded on at least two sides by land being used for agriculture or resource preservation or there are not adequate water or sewage facilities to serve the project.

¹ All future references are to the Government Code unless otherwise specified.



TO: VCOG Administrative Committee
V.C. City/County Manager's Group

FROM: Hugh Riley, Executive Director
BY: Dr. Chris Williamson

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Hugh Riley', is written over the printed name of the Executive Director.

SUBJECT: REAP 2.0 Update

DATE: October 24, 2024

VCOG staff is working to complete the SCAG REAP 2.0 MOU and retain consultant(s) by the end of 2024 with all work completed over the subsequent 18 months.

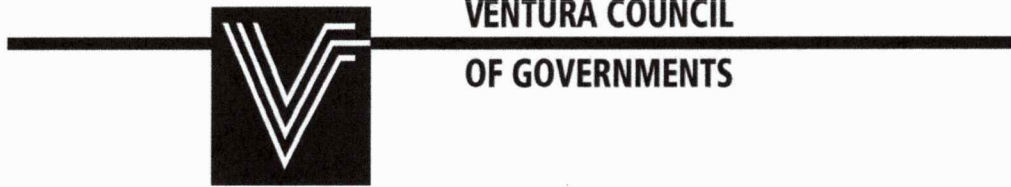
REAP 2.0 (January 2025 through June 2026)

The REAP 2.0 budget is \$367,000 of which \$280,000 will retain design and technical assistance for the Ventura County jurisdictions that participate in either or both of two programs:

1) Calculate your City's HCD Pro-housing Score with follow-up guidance to achieve designation, if requested and funding permits. Local governments that receive HCD's Pro-housing designation receive priority processing and points on Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities, Infill Infrastructure, and Solutions for Congested Corridors grants and other programs will be added as HCD engages with partner agencies. Consultants would work during 2025 for applications due in December, 2025. About 50 jurisdictions are approved to date including Los Angeles City and Los Angeles County, but none in Ventura County.

2) Development of a conceptual design and component program for a major commercial infill area that adds market and affordable housing, reduces VMT, and furthers fair housing and ends with city-adoption of a NAME Commercial Infill Redevelopment Action Plan (CIRAP) that includes tasks, timelines, and funding. There would be no commitment to filing for Pro-housing. CIRAP participation would require the city/county to formally adopt the action plan and identify and allocate two years of funding to complete the action items (such as drafting a specific plan), but not committing funding for the project itself.

The REAP 2.0 Grant Budget also includes \$45,000 to be allocated to the Orange County Council of Governments to continue their ADU Project. Reallocation of these funds is currently under discussion..



Schedule of VCOG Meetings for 2025

Board Meeting- Camarillo City Hall Council Chambers, 601 Carmen Dr., Camarillo 93010 unless otherwise listed, on the Thursdays shown below from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

January 9, 2025

March 13, 2025

May 8, 2025

July 10, 2025

September 11, 2025

October 16, 2025 (Annual Dinner- Moorpark)

November 13, 2025

Administrative Committee – VIA Zoom Conference Call on Thursdays below from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

January 16, 2025

March 20, 2025

May 15, 2025

June 19, 2025

July 17, 2025

Sept. 18, 2025

Oct. 23, 2025

Nov. 20, 2025



MEMORANDUM

TO: VCOG Council Members and Alternates

FROM: Hugh Riley, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Approve the Amended VCOG Strategic Plan for 2025 and Appoint a VCOG Regional Broadband Initiative (VRBI Standing Committee) to shape and maintain strategic direction

DATE: November 14, 2024

Recommendation:

Approve the Amended VCOG Strategic Plan for 2025 to Incorporate VCOG's role in support of a County of Ventura-wide Broadband Initiative and confirm Chair Johnson's appointments to the VRBI Standing Committee.

Background:

In July 2020, the VCOG Administrative Committee began a review of the VCOG Strategic Plan. The plan was originally developed and adopted in 2002. On November 12, 2020 the final plan was presented to the VCOG Council, and approved. On July 13, 2023 VCOG, in partnership with the Ventura County Economic Development Collaborative and the Pacific Coast Broadband Consortium, VCOG applied for and received a grant \$490,860 from the California Public Utilities Commission's Local Agency Technical Assistance Fund (LATA) to 1) establish a broadband joint power of authority (JPA) between VCOG members, 2) design a regional strategy, and 3) create pilot projects to support Last Mile Connections.

Discussion:

To achieve and maintain a high level of communication and engagement with each of the VCOG Member Agencies, on July 13, 2024, an Ad Hoc Committee of the VCOG Council was appointed to assist the Broadband Team. With concurrence of the Council, Chair Johnson appointed VCOG Member Leslie Rule from the City of Ojai and Member Elaine Litster of the City of Simi Valley to serve with Chair Johnson. The Ad Hoc Committee has been working with selected members of the Broadband Working Group Staff to plan the possible formation of a VCOG Broadband JPA.

At it's third and final meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee decided to recommend an amendment to the 2021 VCOG Strategic Plan as an alternative to forming a new Broadband JPA. The Amendment to the Strategic Plan will incorporate the definition and development of a VCOG coordination role for regional broadband deployment, adoption, and the flow of appropriate information.

The Strategic Plan Amendment - The new language proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee to amend the strategic plan (Attachment 1) is highlighted in yellow on pages 5 and 6. To address all potential Issues, the following language is added to the Strategic Plan on Page 5.

■ Broadband for All

- Regional infrastructure planning and implementation
- Equitable access and utilization of funding and resources
- Digital inclusion and digital equity for all residents
- Redundant and resilient connectivity
- Smart city applications

Also added in the "Possible Implementation Strategies" Section on Page 6, under "Regular meetings":

- Broadband Working Group and Standing Committee

An Organizational Plan for VCOG's Regional Broadband Initiative (VRBI) is attachment 2. The proposed amendment to the Strategic Plan aligns with VCOG's General Baseline Work Plan (Attachment 3) as follows:

1. Coordinating Broadband Deployment: Facilitating cooperation among multiple jurisdictions to plan and deploy broadband infrastructure. - General Baseline Work Program Item B.
2. Pooling Resources: Enabling local governments to pool resources, funding, and expertise to address broadband challenges, especially in underserved or rural areas where deployment costs may be higher. - General Baseline Work Program Item C&D.
3. Regulatory and Policy Coordination: Providing a platform for coordinating regulatory efforts and policies related to broadband deployment and access. - General Baseline work product Item A&B.
4. Public-Private Partnerships: Fostering partnerships between public entities and private companies to encourage investment in and development of broadband infrastructure. General Baseline work product item D.

Broadband Standing Committee – VCOG's activity and participation as outlined in the VRBI includes the appointment of a standing committee to shape and maintain the strategic direction of the Broadband Initiative and ensure the continued flow of relevant information. This standing committee will serve throughout the Broadband Project. Committee members may change in the future as necessitated by their individual circumstances as elected officials. The standing committee will be assisted and advised by an extension of the current Broadband Working Group consisting of selected staff from each member agency as well as by the Ventura County City/County Manager's Group (VCCM).

VCOG's Bylaws state that any elected official from any entity city (council) or the county Board of Supervisors is eligible for appointment to a standing committee. A standing committee member need not be the appointed VCOG Member Representative.

Therefore, to ensure a regional representation, Chair Johnson is recommending the appointment of the following five positions to be named in January 2025 to serve on the initial VCOG Broadband Standing Committee:

1. City of Ojai Representative
2. City of Oxnard Representative
3. City of Thousand Oaks Representative
4. City of Santa Paula Representative
5. Ventura County Supervisor- District 4 OR
City of Moorpark Representative

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Amended VCOG Strategic Plan- 2025
2. VCOG Regional Broadband Initiative (VRBI)
3. VCOG Baseline Work Program



VENTURA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

VCOG STRATEGIC PLAN

2025

Introduction

The **Ventura Council of Governments (VCOG)** is a voluntary joint powers authority representing the 10 cities of Ventura County as well as the County whose goal is to facilitate cooperative sub-regional and regional planning, coordination and technical assistance on issues of mutual concern.

Various Agencies including colleges and universities, regional agencies, joint powers authorities, utility companies, and state and federal agencies may be invited to participate on issues that involve their respective interests, missions and/or facilities. Anyone may attend meetings to observe

VCOG is based on the premise that Ventura County can have more representation without more government and issues of common concern often extend beyond the purview of local jurisdictions and agencies, requiring insight and input from a wide range of affected interests.

VCOG works efficiently by utilizing existing resources to the greatest extent possible, collaboratively finding new ways to perform needed activities for less, while eliminating duplication of effort.

The following information is intended to provide a framework for establishing future goals and priorities for the Ventura Council of Governments.

Included:

- **VCOG Mission Statement**
- **VCOG Strategy**
The *VCOG Strategy* was initially developed in 2004 as the sub-region's 'plan'. It was the result of interviews conducted with elected and appointed officials of the member cities and the county as well as some of the private sector organizations in the county. These interviews were meant to solicit input on priority issues.
- **General Baseline Work Program**
- **Potential Issues To Address**
List of issues in policy areas in which VCOG could participate.
- **Possible Implementation Strategies**
Programs and projects that VCOG could establish to carry out its Mission.

Mission Statement

Work to continue to make Ventura County a unique national model of orderly development based on Guidelines for Orderly Development with sustainable economic prosperity, equitable economic opportunity and high environmental quality by:

- Promoting cooperation between the municipalities of Ventura County in the discussion of area-wide issues of mutual interest as well as advancing city-county cooperation.
- Promoting cooperation and communication with colleges and universities, special districts, regional agencies, joint powers authorities, utility companies and State and Federal agencies, and Naval Base Ventura County on an as-needed basis.
- Unifying Ventura County cities and the county to advocate with one cohesive voice on important regional issues and legislative matters.
- Investigate issues of common concern through joint studies and cost-effective, multi-jurisdictional programs that lead to model ordinances, programs, and other products for use by all members.
- Supporting members' proposals that further the objectives of the Ventura Council of Governments.
- Providing a forum for communication and representation on behalf of the Ventura County cities and the county with other governing bodies and organizations in the county, as well as facilitate the exchange of ideas and information.
- Increasing visibility and awareness of Ventura County as an outstanding place to live, work, and play.
- Balance the expressed and enacted policies and directions of the County's residents with Federal, state, judicial, or other regional mandates and directions.

VCOG Strategy

This is the second installment of an evolving strategy which will enable participating cities in Ventura County and the County to identify and act on issues of mutual interest or concern. As such, it is consistent with the rights and limitations prescribed in the VCOG Joint Powers Authority agreement. It is only as strong as the commitment invested by members of the council of governments and its implementation will depend on the priorities established by the members.

Objectives of the Strategy are:

- To identify areas of common concern and interest among the 11 participating jurisdictions;
- To provide a means by which to document ideas and solutions discussed by VCOG;
- To provide a policy foundation for future VCOG planning efforts; and
- To serve as a potential blueprint for future implementation actions within the Sub-region of SCAG.

The focus of this Strategy is to find ways to capitalize on the strengths of the county and its cities at all levels of government and within the private sector. It is intended to enable individual cities and the county to better achieve their visions in collaboration with neighboring communities with whom they share common issues and goals.

General Baseline Work Program

- A. Serve as a forum for consideration, study and recommendation on area-wide and regional problems.
- B. Assemble information helpful in the consideration of problems unique to the County and its cities and explore practical avenues for intergovernmental cooperation, coordination, and action in the interest of its members.
- C. Seek economies of scale whenever practical in the administration of governmental services.
- D. Facilitate intergovernmental coordination with public and private sectors on issues common to Ventura County governmental agencies.
- E. Coordinate Public Information and Outreach on issues of local government importance, as needed and/or requested.

Potential Issues to Address

- Growth Projections
 - Who are we planning for - demographic characteristics of the future population in the county
 - Impact and relevance of Naval Base Ventura County
- Growth Management
 - Perception of diminishing quality of life
 - Urban form capable of accommodating anticipated growth
 - Land Use/Transportation linkages

- Housing
 - Jobs/Housing imbalance
 - Lack of production of diverse housing choices – ownership/rental, workforce, entry level, and affordable
 - Homelessness
 - Making use of existing or new federal, state and local resources for housing development
 - Concern of excessive administrative and economic burdens to meet requirements to build housing
 - State preemption of local zoning control and processes
 - Protecting environment and existing neighborhoods
 - Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)

- Solid Waste- VCOG is the Local Task Force (in accordance with Sec. 40950 of Public Resources Code) responsible for coordinating development of the city and county source reduction and recycling elements of the countywide integrated waste management plan and for assisting in the preparation of the countywide facility citing element of the plan.
 - Citing of food waste recycling facilities
 - Materials recovery and reuse
 - Challenges related to high fire hazard severity zones Integrated Waste Management

- Mobility
 - Emergency/alternate access roads
 - Inter-county traffic concerns
 - Jobs/housing imbalance
 - Lack of funding for infrastructure improvements
 - Finding more effective alternative modes of travel
 - Effects of the virtual workplace on our transportation system

- Goods Movement
 - Community impact on increasing truck movements
 - Impact of the growth projected for Port Hueneme and in the region

- Air Quality
 - Regional air quality, protecting public health Regional, state and federal air quality plans and requirements
 - Practical transportation control measures

- Use of new technologies Impacts of New Technology and Climate Change
 - Production, storage, and recycling of energy
 - Wireless technology
 - State and federal mandates

- Open Space/Green Belts/Preservation of Agricultural Land
 - Conserving the open space and green belts in the face of growing land use demands and worldwide competition

- Wildlife safety and preservation Wildlife corridor and wildfire protection areas
- Water Resources and Water Quality
 - Maintaining sufficient water supply and quality to meet the growing demand
 - Water conservation and reuse
- Energy Issues
 - Adequacy of energy supply at reasonable cost in view of growing demand
 - Community aggregation alliances
 - Energy efficiency and conservation
 - Energy efficient building
- Public Safety & Hometown Security
 - Sustain low crime rates and safe communities
 - Juvenile Justice and anti-gang related programs
 - Emergency preparedness
- Economic Development
 - Sustain economic vitality within the county as a whole and its individual city communities
 - Job Training, re-training and educational needs
 - Maintaining Ventura County and its cities' competitive market posture.
 - Role of High Tech, Bio Tech, Agriculture, Trade & Tourism and other important industry clusters in the county
 - Customer service
- Broadband for All
 - Regional infrastructure planning and implementation
 - Equitable access and utilization of funding and resources
 - Digital inclusion and digital equity for all residents
 - Redundant and resilient connectivity
 - Smart city applications

Possible Implementation Strategies

- Advocacy
 - Legislative Forums with legislators – some social time and questions and answers
 - Coordinate legislative outreach, and interface on activities affecting member agencies
 - Work collaboratively with League of California Cities and California State Association of Counties Fund studies that will test the efficacy of certain community benefit programs.
- RHNA

- Coordinate consensus response to regional housing need allocations
- General Plan Updates Housing Elements
- Water
- Solid waste
- Open space
- Land use/Transportation

- Information Sharing and Clearinghouse
 - Web site

- Regular Meetings
 - City Managers and County CAO
 - Planning and Community Development City Staffs
 - Economic Development Agencies
 - Broadband Working Group
 - Standing Committee

VCOG Regional Broadband Initiative (VRBI)

In alignment with the Ventura Council of Governments' (VCOG) strategic plan, the VRBI aims to ensure that Ventura County's broadband strategies reflect the long-term goals identified in the State of California's "Broadband for All" Action Plan, that all Californians have:

1. High-performance broadband available at home, schools, libraries, and businesses.
2. Access to affordable broadband and necessary devices.
3. Access to training and support to enable digital inclusion.

Key Participants

Role	Responsibility	Activities
Executive Director	Interconnect and align regional broadband vision with communication and strategic activities among VCOG stakeholders.	Continuous engagement with city managers and member councils on strategic direction and regional initiatives. Convene Regional Broadband Working Group and standing committee to ensure VRBI vision is aligned with activities.
Board Members	Maintain engagement, support advocacy efforts, facilitate education and commitment within communities.	Promote strategic direction and initiatives to member councils and leaders for cooperation.
Standing Committee	Shape strategic directions and communicate imperative across the region.	Regular meetings to direct strategy and communication.
Working Group – city staff as appointed by member agencies	Collaborate on shared interests and local engagement of Broadband for All initiatives.	Regular meetings to collaborate on policy development, funding opportunities, deploying technology solutions, and increasing broadband adoption

*Collaboration with Internet Service Providers (ISPs), subject matter experts, and regional consortiums will be essential to respond to opportunities and drive the initiative forward.

Key Activities

Focus Area	Description	Actions
Coordinate Digital Inclusion	Facilitate collaboration among jurisdictions to plan and implement broadband	Maintain regional mapping to track the status of broadband deployment and adoption

	infrastructure and adoption efficiently and effectively.	throughout the County. Identify gaps to determine priority areas.
Pool Resources	Enable local governments to share resources, funding, and expertise to address broadband challenges, particularly in underserved or rural areas where deployment costs are higher.	Track projects from proposal to completion, with prioritization and status updates. Coordinate resources and funding to maximize cooperation across municipal boundaries.
Regulatory and Policy Coordination	Establish a platform to streamline regulatory efforts and policy alignment related to broadband deployment and access.	Encourage uniform standards for broadband deployment policies and permitting. Policy checklists and handbooks will provide guidance to municipalities. Support legislative efforts that promote Broadband for All goals.
Facilitate Public-Private Partnerships	Encourage partnerships between public entities and private companies to drive investment in and development of broadband infrastructure.	Engage Internet service providers and technology companies to present innovative proposals, promote public-sector leadership to provide governance and champion the future of technology-based infrastructure.

Outcomes

VRBI is driven by the self-funded, collaborative efforts of stakeholders and a primary result of civic entrepreneurship. Successes will be realized on a case-by-case basis, driven by the combined interests and investments of local governments, private sector partners, and community organizations.

General Baseline Work Program

- A. Serve as a forum for consideration, study and recommendation on area-wide and regional problems
- B. Assemble information helpful in the consideration of problems peculiar to the County and its cities
- C. Explore practical avenues for intergovernmental cooperation, coordination, and action in the interest of its members
- D. Seek economies of scale whenever practical in the administration of governmental services
- E. Facilitate intergovernmental coordination with public and private sectors on issues common to Ventura County governmental agencies
- F. Coordinate Public Information and Outreach on issues of local government importance, as needed and/or requested