



**VENTURA COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENTS**

**AGENDA
VENTURA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Regional Broadband Initiative
Standing Committee
(ZOOM Conference Call)
Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
[Join Zoom Meeting at this link.](#)**

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 1777 E. Los Angeles Ave. Ste. 105, Simi Valley, California by appointment [(805) 501-6182] 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:

Leslie Cornejo, 970 E Ventura St, Santa Paula, CA 93060, (City Hall)
Chris Enegren - 444 Zachary St # 120, Moorpark, CA 93021 (Business)
Bob Engler, 2100 Thousand Oaks Blvd, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362, (City Hall)
Janice Parvin, 980 Enchanted Way #203, Simi Valley, CA 93065, (District Office)
Bert Perello, 300 W 3rd St, Oxnard, CA 93030, (City Hall)
Leslie Rule, 401 S Ventura St, Ojai, CA 93023, (City Hall)

2. Public Statements

3. Executive Director's Report

4. Permitting Details from Member Agencies (Page 2)

5. VRBI Strategic Priorities and Actions (Page 6)

6. Future agenda items

7. Adjournment- Next VRBI Standing Committee Meeting- April 1, 2026

Ventura Council of Governments

Permitting Summary for ISPs

City of Moorpark

Permitting Lead

- For Encroachment Permits: Linda Myszkowski, Assistant Engineer, lmyszkowski@moorparkca.gov, (805) 517-6292
- For Right-of-Way Access Agreements: Brian Chong, Assistant to the City Manager, bchong@moorparkca.gov, (805) 517-6247

Permitting Process

- If an ISP is not entitled to right-of-way access, a License Agreement with the City is required to obtain access to the City's right-of-way. While these are individually negotiated, Moorpark expects terms similar to those of its April 2025 agreement with Aspire Broadband for any other ISP entering Moorpark's right-of-way.
- Due to the unique nature of microtrenching compared to other typical encroachment activities, applying the City's Encroachment Permit fee schedule (based on linear feet of construction) is likely to result in an overcharge relative to the actual cost to provide plan check and inspection services. To remedy this, Moorpark can agree with prospective ISPs to pass along actual plan-check and inspection costs, plus a 15% administrative overhead. Because of Moorpark's small staffing size, actual plan checking and inspections would be provided by the City's overflow engineering consultant. ISPs will be expected to post a deposit with the Public Works Department, against which the outside plan check and inspection charges will be taken. Phasing of the deposits is acceptable to reduce upfront costs, if desired by an ISP.

Barriers

- Because the community is relatively young, there are very few above-ground utility poles in Moorpark to which to affix fiber-optic cable.
- There is competition in the ISP space in Moorpark. Spectrum is the incumbent ISP in Moorpark. AT&T offers fiber optic service in a small portion of northwestern Moorpark. Aspire Broadband launched fiber-optic service to its first Moorpark customers in November 2025 and expects to complete its fiber-optic network build-out in mid-2026.

Microtrenching

- Moorpark has already incorporated microtrenching into its Encroachment Permit Ordinance (Moorpark Municipal Code Chapter 12.04).
- Moorpark microtrenching standards are posted on the City's website at:
<https://docs.moorparkca.gov/WebLink/DocView.aspx?id=127614&dbid=0&repo=CityOfMoorpark>

City of Ventura

Permitting Lead

Matthew Maechler
Principal Civil Engineer
805-677-3930
mmaechler@cityofventura.ca.gov

Terri Quintel
Senior Engineering Technician
805-654-7762
tquintel@cityofventura.ca.gov

Permitting Process

Detailed information for the permitting process can be found from the City's Permit Center webpage: <https://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/2544/Permit-Center>

An account with Ventura Online Permit Services (OPS) is required to apply for permits:
https://land.cityofventura.ca.gov/energov_prod/selfservice/#/home

Barriers

None

Microtrenching

- Aerial – Only allowed in areas with current aerial utilities
- Pole Locations – Would need to work through Southern California Edison (SCE) for use of utility poles.

- Micro trenching – The City of Ventura does not currently have a micro-trenching standard, but is working to develop one. There is no overall opposition to microtrenching.

City of Thousand Oaks

Permitting Lead

Mohammad Fatemi
Engineering Division Manager
805-677-3930
mfatemi@toaks.gov

Permitting Process

No franchise agreement is required. These steps should be followed:

- **Apply for an encroachment permit.** Requires the contractor to be an "A" licensed general contractor with insurance as required by the City (currently \$2M/\$4M general liability). Submittal of a traffic control plan prepared by a licensed engineer.
- **Pay plan check and inspection fees.** The fee depends on the size of the project. See attached User Fee for encroachment plan check and inspection fees. The value of construction costs is determined from the attached cost estimate worksheet.
- **Post an encroachment bond.** Bond amount is based on the cost estimate worksheet for the quantity of work to be performed.

Barriers

None

Microtrenching

- A standard has not been officially approved, but it is part of a standards update that we plan to have approved by Council soon. Public Works will not allow new poles to be set for an aerial installation. If above-ground lines already exist, we

would allow new cables to be installed above ground on those poles, provided the pole owner approves.

Ventura Council of Governments

Proposed Work Plan to Promote Broadband Implementation

Align Policy & Permitting Standards Regionally

- Develop **model ordinances and unified permitting best practices** that reduce barriers to provider deployment.
- Distribute policy checklists and assist jurisdictions adopting aligned standards.
- Integrate broadband language into **General Plan and infrastructure planning cycles** across cities and the county.

Deliverables

- Regional permitting guide for ISPs
- Model broadband ordinance
- Model microtrenching standard

Early Funding Strategy & Legislative Tracking

- Establish a funding strategy team dedicated to **federal, state, and local broadband programs** (e.g., BEAD, CASF, Digital Equity Grants).
- Monitor relevant legislative developments (state Broadband for All resources, CPUC rulemaking, federal appropriations) and advocate regionally.
- Lead or participate in **joint funding applications** where regional economies of scale increase competitiveness.

Deliverables

- Catalog of funding opportunities with application timelines
- Letters of support and regional lobbying strategy

Support the Middle-Mile Network and Facilitate Last-Mile Partnerships

- Coordinate with the **Ventura County Middle Mile Broadband Network** deployment (Magellan partnership) and ensure VRBI input on route optimization and access points.
- Engage private ISPs and public entities in planning **last-mile expansions** to ensure the middle-mile infrastructure connects to homes, businesses, schools, and healthcare facilities.

- Advocate for agreements that **incentivize competitive service offers and affordable pricing**, including leveraging municipal assets (e.g., right-of-way, conduit, facilities).

Deliverables

- Last-mile deployment framework
- Memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with providers

Expand Anchor Institution Connectivity and Network Resilience

- Compile a **comprehensive inventory of Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs)** (schools, libraries, healthcare) and assess current connectivity gaps.
- Prioritize funding and deployment projects that enhance **resiliency and redundancy** for CAIs, supporting telehealth, distance learning, and economic competitiveness.

Deliverables

- CAI prioritization report
- Resilient backbone integration plan

Catalyze Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)

- Host a regional broadband summit to present priority Opportunity Zones and solicit proposals from incumbent and new entrant providers.
- Develop **incentive frameworks** (e.g., expedited permitting, matching funds, infrastructure sharing) to attract investment in underserved and unserved areas.

Deliverables

- Broadband summit and provider prospectus
- PPP incentive policy

Digital Adoption & Equity Strategy

- Collaborate with community partners to contribute to the **Ventura County Digital Equity Plan**.
- Leverage VRBI data to support **digital inclusion grant applications**, including device access, training, and navigator placements.
- Support ISPs and community organizations in sustainable adoption programs (e.g., community tech hubs, public Wi-Fi in key spaces).

Deliverables

- Digital equity implementation strategy
- Adoption partnership agreements

Performance Metrics and Accountability

- Adopt a set of **regional broadband performance standards** (baseline speeds, latency, reliability) that align with state and federal goals.
- Track and publish annual progress metrics (deployment, adoption, affordability, speeds) to maintain transparent accountability and guide resource allocation.

Deliverables

- Regional performance dashboard
- Annual progress report

Continuous Improvement and Strategy Updates

- Review and update the VRBI Strategic Priorities at least annually, using data from deployment, funding outcomes, and adoption results to refine actions. Incorporate evolving technologies and policies (e.g., fixed wireless, 5G, network security requirements) into strategic planning.

Deliverables

- Updated multi-year strategic plan
- Technology and policy horizon reports

Key Success Principles

1. Regional Alignment:

Create unified standards and procedures across jurisdictions to minimize fragmentation and redundancy.

2. Data-Driven Prioritization:

Use shared GIS and performance metrics to prioritize actions that yield the most significant broadband improvement per dollar invested.

3. Partnerships & Funding Diversification:

Blend public and private investments and pursue joint funding where the region can demonstrate scale and impact.

4. Adoption & Inclusion:

Ensure that broadband deployment translates into **meaningful access, affordability, and digital equity** for residents and businesses alike.