



**VENTURA COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENTS**

**Thursday, January 9, 2024, 4:00 p.m.
Camarillo Public Library
Community Room
4101 Las Posas Rd, Camarillo, CA 93010
AGENDA**

Persons who require accommodation for any audio, visual, language or othe disability to review an agenda, or to participate in a meeting of the Ventura Council of Governments per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)) (28 CFR 35, 102-35. 104 Title II. and California Government Code Section 54954.2, may obtain assistance by requesting such accommodation by calling VCOG staff at 805-217-9448 or emailing ridgeriley@msn.com. Any such request for accommodation must be made at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting for which assistance is requested. Copies of staff reports or other written documentation relating to each item of business referred to on this agenda are on file with the Ventura Council of Governments Executive Director and are available for public inspection.

AGENDA REPORTS AND OTHER DISCLOSABLE PUBLIC RECORDS RELATED TO OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEMS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE VCOG WEBSITE UNDER AGENDA AND MINUTES AT WWW.VENTURACOG.ORG.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

At this time, public comments received in advance by VCOG Staff will be read aloud into the meeting record. Individual Board Members may briefly respond to Public Comments or ask questions for clarification.

- 5. SEATING OF VCOG CHAIR- 2025 AND ELECTION OF CHAIR-ELECT FOR 2025 - (Future VCOG Chair for 2026). p. 3 .** Chris Enegren, City of Moorpark Mayor to assume the office of VCOG Chair and preside. Chair will call for nomination for the office of Chair-Elect for 2025 from the floor. Chair mat appoint at-lerge members to Admin Committee.
Action: Elect Chair-Elect and confirm hair appointments.

- 6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT** – The Report will be distributed at the meeting.

MEMBERS*

City of Camarillo
David Tennesen, Camarillo
Kevin Kildee, Alternate

City of Fillmore
Carrie Broggie
Albert Mendez, Alternate

City of Moorpark
Chris Enegren, Chair
Tom Means, Alternate

City of Ojai
Leslie Rule, Member
Betsy Stix, Alternate

City of Oxnard
Bert Perello, Member
Oscar Madrigal, Alternate

City of Port Hueneme
Steven Gama, Member
Laura Hernandez, Alternate

City of San Buenaventura
_____, Member
Bill McReynolds, Alternate

City of Santa Paula
Leslie Cornejo, Member
Jenny Crosswhite, Alternate

City of Simi Valley
Elaine Litster, IPC
Mike Judge, Alternate

City of Thousand Oaks
Bob Engler, Member
David Newman, Alternate

County of Ventura
Janice Parvin, Member
Jeff Gorell, Alternate

*2024 VCOG Members serve until replaced or reappointed

7. **AGENCY REPORTS** – Oral Reports If Agency Representatives Attend
 - A. Broadband Team Update & Report on Ventura County Broadband Project
 - B. Southern California Association of Governments
 - C. Ventura County Transportation Commission
 - D. League of California Cities
 - E. County of Ventura -Legislative Analyst

8. **Proposed Amendment to VCOG Strategic Plan** – p. 4 - Review, discuss and Approve the Amended VCOG Strategic Plan and Baseline Work Plan for 2025 and Approve Selections for Member Agency-Appointments to the VCOG Regional Broadband Initiative (VRBI) Standing Committee) to shape and maintain strategic direction

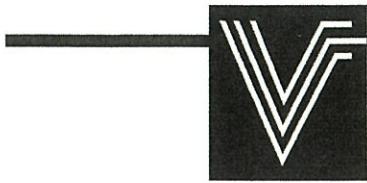
9. **CONSENT CALENDAR**
 - A. **Summary of September 12, 2024 Meeting p. 14** : Approve Meeting Summary for the September 12, 2024 VCOG Meeting. The November 14, 2024 VCOG Meeting was cancelled. **Action:** Approve Meeting Summary.
 - B. **Financial Report p. 18** - Approve Ventura Council of Governments Financial Report for the Budget Period from September 6, 2024 to January 3, 2025. **Action:** Approve Financial Report
 - C. **Register of Warrants & Debit Card Transactions p. 22** - Approve the Register of Warrants for Expenditures and Debit Card Transactions incurred from September 6, 2024 to January 3, 2025. **Action:** Approve Register of Warrants and Debit Card Transactions.
 - D. **VCOG Meeting Schedule- 2025** – p. 26 **Action:** Approve VCOG Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2025.
 - E. **2025 VCOG Program of Priorities** – p. 29 Review and Approve proposed revisions to the VCOG Program of Priorities for 2025. **Action:** Approve VCOG Program of Priorities for 2025.
 - F. **2025 VCOG Legislative Program** – p. 31 Review and Approve proposed revisions to the VCOG Legislative Program for 2025. **Action:** Approve VCOG Legislative Program for 2025.

10. **PRESENTATION ITEMS**
 - A. **Presentation by – Ricole Kelly, Deputy District Attorney, Ventura County p. 37** Update on Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVROs) and the Status of County Family Justice Centers- Current and Future **Action:** Receive report and discuss.
 - B. **Presentation by – Aimée Brecht-Doscher, MD. p. 38** Medical Director of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program in Ventura County, operated through the County Family Justice Center. **Action:** Receive report and discuss.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Any Council Member present may propose items for placement on a future agenda. Members should limit their proposed topics to issues that conform to VCOG's adopted Program of Priorities. Members may discuss whether the item should be placed on a future agenda and the description of the agenda item.


11. **ADJOURNMENT:** Next Meeting- March 13, 2025 – City Council Chamber, City of Camarillo.



Item 5

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members and Alternates

FROM: Hugh Riley, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: SEATING OF VCOG CHAIR- 2025 AND ELECTION OF CHAIR-ELECT FOR 2025 (Future VCOG Chair for 2026)

DATE: January 9, 2025

Recommendation:

Chris Enegren to Assume the Position of Chair and Accept Nominations from the Floor for the Office of Chair-Elect for 2025. May appoint Administrative Committee- At-Large-Members.

Discussion:

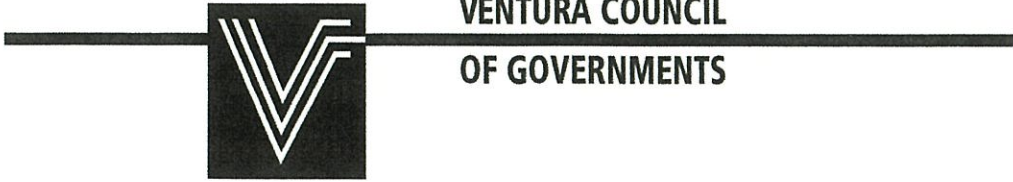
Past VCOG practice has been to conduct officer elections and reorganize the Council in January including installing the previous year's chair-elect as chair. Ventura City Councilmember Mike Johnson chose not to seek re-election to his seat, therefore as the 2024 Chair-Elect, Chris Enegren automatically becomes VCOG Chair as of January 9, 2025.

In-coming Chair Enegren will assume these duties as of January 9. Therefore, staff is recommending the nomination and election of VCOG Chair-Elect 2025 who will assume the office of Chair in 2026.

In addition, very few of VCOG Member Agencies make appointments to boards and commissions before the beginning of January. Under these circumstances, we may not be able to determine if members elected to serve on VCOG Committees for 2025 will ultimately be appointed to serve on VCOG by their respective mayors or councils.

PAST VCOG CHAIRS


2024 – Mike Johnson, Ventura	2015 – Al Adam, Thousand Oaks
2023- Elaine Litster, Simi Valley	2014 – Jan McDonald, Camarillo
2022- Kevin Kildee, Camarillo	2013 – Bob Huber, Simi Valley
2021 – Jenny Crosswhite, Santa Paula	2012 - Tim Flynn, Oxnard
2020 – Janice Parvin – Moorpark	2011 – Janice Parvin, Moorpark
2019 - Al Adam – Thousand Oaks	2010 – Gabino Aguirre, Santa Paula
2018 – Bob Huber – Simi Valley	2009 – Lindsey Miller, Simi Valley
2017 - John Procter – Santa Paula	2008 – Thomas Holden, Oxnard
2016 – Janice Parvin, Moorpark	



ITEM 8.

MEMORANDUM

TO: VCOG Council Members and Alternates

FROM: Hugh Riley, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Approve the Amended VCOG Strategic Plan and Baseline Work Plan for 2025 and Approve Selections for Member Agency-Appointments to the VCOG Regional Broadband Initiative (VRBI) Standing Committee) to shape and maintain strategic direction

DATE: January 9, 2025

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 appoint/confirm Chair Enegren's selections for member agency appointment 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 its 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 recommended 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)

**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 siting element of the plan.
 - Siting 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.

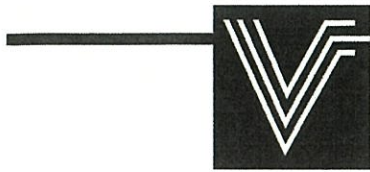
Key Activities

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

	implement broadband infrastructure and adoption efficiently and effectively.	deployment and adoption 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.



ITEM 9A.

MEETING SUMMARY

**601 Carmen Dr.
Camarillo, CA 93012
September 12, 2024**

1. CALL TO ORDER & FLAG SALUTE – The meeting was called to Order at 4:10 PM by Chair Johnson. The Flag Salute was led by Chair Johnson.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present:

Mike Johnson, Chair, City of San Buenaventura
Chris Enegren, Chair-Elect, City of Moorpark
Janice Parvin, County of Ventura,
Carrie Broggie, City of Fillmore
Mike Judge, Alternate, City of Simi Valley
Bert Perello, City of Oxnard
David Newman, Alternate- Thousand Oaks
Leslie Rule, City of Ojai
Steven Gama, City of Port Hueneme
David Tennessen, City of Camarillo

Absent: Elaine Litster, IP Chair, City of Simi Valley; Leslie Cronejo, City of Santa Paula
Bob Engler, City of Thousand Oaks

Staff Present:

Hugh Riley, Executive Director, VCOG

Partner Agency Representatives and Agency Support Staff:

Brian Chong, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Moorpark
Mina Layba, Legislative Affairs Manager, City of Thousand Oaks.
Michelle Guzman, Legislative Analyst, County of Ventura
Molika Oum, Pacific Coast Broadband Consortium Coordinator

Guests:

Dr. Richard Yao, President, Cal State University, Channel Islands
Michelle Ascencion, Ventura County Clerk-Recorder & Registrar of Voters

3. Public Comment: There were no comments from the public submitted.

4. Executive Director's Report-

Legislative Update – Riley reported on AB 98. The bill require would, beginning January 1, 2026 the adoption of a revised Circulation Element by all cities and would prescribe various statewide warehouse design and build standards for any proposed new or expanded logistics use developments, as specified, including, among other things, standards for building design and location, parking, truck loading bays, landscaping buffers, entry gates, and signage. Riley presented a letter to the governor requesting his veto of the bill.

Riley also presented a letter requesting a veto of SB 1037. This bill would allow the Attorney General to take legal action against a city and seek fines up to \$50K a month for failure to

adopt a compliant housing element or if the city does not follow state laws that require ministerial approval of certain housing projects. SB 1037 does not provide 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.

Riley also presented a letter asking for the governor's signature on AB 1960, an important part of the Retail Theft Package of bills that had passed the legislature. AB 1960 (Rivas) would, until its sunset on January 1, 2030, apply additional terms of incarceration ranging from 1 to 4 additional years for those who excessively take or damage property during the commission of felony offenses. The range of damage or lost property ranging from \$50,000 to \$3,000,000 would directly correspond with increasing tiers of additional sentencing terms. There were no objections to sending these letters and Chair Johnson was authorized to sign them.

Riley referenced several other bills including their current status. This information was included in Riley's report

REAP Programs

Riley reported that VCOG has completed all approved REAP 1.0 Projects. All associated bills have been paid and closeout reports have been submitted to SCAG. The approved state budget retains \$560 million for REAP 2.0. We are waiting to hear from SCAG on the next steps to restart REAP 2.0 when the "stop work order" is lifted.

Broadband for All- LATA Grant –Update

Riley made reference to his written report on Broadband and called on Molika Oum, Pacific Coast Broadband Consortium Coordinator. Molika provided a summary of the current Broadband Activity including the status of Ventura County's application for the Last Mile Federal Funding Account (FFA) Grant Program. The application from Ventura County has not been included in award recommendations for the upcoming 9/12 and 9/26 CPUC Voting meetings. but we continue to remain optimistic that the County will receive an award announcement (in favor, or not) for this budget year. The next CPUC FFA Awards recommendation announcement should be released no later than September 17th for the October 17th Voting.

She reported that the VCOG JPA Ad Hoc Committee (Johnson, Litster, and Ruhl) had met for its second meeting on August 22nd and discussed the possible amendment to the current VCOG JPA versus amending the VCOG Strategic Plan and Work Program to the Broadband initiatives we are now undertaking. She advised that the First drafts of Municipal Profiles were distributed to member agency working group representatives the Week of September 8th for initial review. Following feedback and edits, the VCOG LATA team will revise drafts to include analysis and recommendations to be reviewed for final approval by member agencies. The goal timeline for completion of the Regional Broadband Strategic Plan is completion by December 2024.

Riley referenced his written report including the SCAG Update for September 2024 from Rachel and the Admin Committee's planned meeting on September 19, 2024 when the Committee will plan for the November 14, 2024 VCOG Meeting Agenda and continue work on the Executive Director Search, the Annual VCOG Dinner on October 10, 2024. Future VCOG Staffing and Budget requirements will also be discussed.

5. Proposed VCOG Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget Amendment – Riley presented VCOG Resolution No. 2024-02 Approving an amendment to the VCOG Operating Budget for FY 2024-2025. He explained that the 2024 state budget had restored funding for the Regional Early Action Program (REAP 2.0). VCOG’s original REAP 2.0 Grant amount was **\$419,127**. \$7,371 was expended by VCOG before a “Stop Work” was ordered effective May 29, 2024 for staff costs to prepare the grant application and negotiate a preliminary Memorandum of Understanding with SCAG for the administration of the grant. The balance of the original grant (**\$411,756**) will be added to the amended budget. Considering Executive Director Riley’s retirement as of June 30, 2025 Staff is recommending a supplemental appropriation of **\$10,000** to cover expenses related to the search for Riley’s replacement.

VCOG Resolution No. 2024-02 presents a proposed amendment to the 2024-2025 VCOG Operating Budget to include the amounts described above and as provided in Exhibit A. to the Resolution.

A **Motion** was made by Tennessen with a **Second** by Enegren to adopt VCOG Resolution No. 2024-02 Approving the Budget Amendment as described in Exhibit A to the Resolution. Roll Call Vote was Recorded as follows: Ayes: 10; Nos: 0. The Motion Carried

6. AGENCY REPORTS

Michelle Guzman, Legislative Analyst, County of Ventura was present and opted to provide a report-time permitting. There were no other Agency representatives other than Ms. Oum the Pacific Coast Broadband Consortium Coordinator who provided her report earlier in the meeting.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Summary of July 11, 2024 Meeting** - Approve Meeting Summary for the July 11, 2024 VCOG Meeting. **Action:** Approve Meeting Summary as published.
- B. Financial Report** - Approve Ventura Council of Governments Financial Report for the Budget Period from July 5, 2024 to September 6, 2024. **Action:** Approve Financial Report
- C. Register of Warrants & Debit Card Transactions** - Approve the Register of Warrants for Expenditures and Debit Card Transactions incurred from July 5, 2024 to September 6, 2024 **Action:** Approve Register of Warrants and Debit Card Transactions.
- D. Propoosal from Tripepi-Smith – to provide Assistance with VCOG Executive Director Search** (www.tripepi-smith.com). Review August 9, 2024 Proposal fro Trepipe-Smith Talent Solutions for VCOG Executive Director Search Support. **Action:** Approve proposal and authorize Chair and Executive Director to sign retainer agreement with Tripepi-Smith.
- E. A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement (MOU) with SCAG for REAP 2.0 Planning Grant for \$411,756** Adopt VCOG Resolution No. 2024-03 Authoruzing VCOG Chair to Execute an Agreement MOU with SCAG for \$411,756 REAP 2.0 Grant and authorize Chair to sign on behalf of VCOG. **Action:** Adopt VCOG Resolution No. 2024-03.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Summary of May 9, 2024 Meeting** - Approve Meeting Summary for the May 9, 2024 VCOG Meeting. **Action:** Approve Meeting Summary as published.
- B. Financial Report** - Approve Ventura Council of Governments Financial Report for the Budget Period from May 3, 2024 to July 5, 2024. **Action:** Approve Financial Report

- C. **Register of Warrants & Debit Card Transactions** - Approve the Register of Warrants for Expenditures and Debit Card Transactions incurred from May 3, 2024 to July 5, 2024
Action: Approve Register of Warrants and Debit Card Transactions. Action: Approve Register of Warrants and Debit Card Transactions.
- D. **VCOG Audit and Financial Statements for 2022-2023:** -Review 2022-2023 VCOG Audit and Financial Statements
Action: Accept and Approve Financial Statements for 2022-2023.
- E. **Appointment of Ad Hoc Broadband JPA Committee** – Appoint Member Leslie Rule from the City of Ojai and Member Elaine Litster of the City of Simi Valley to serve on the Ad Hoc Broadband JPA Committee. **Action:** Appoint Ad Hoc Committee.

A **Motion** was made by Enegren with a **Second** by Parvin to approve all items of the Consent Calendar. Roll Call Vote Recorded as follows: Ayes: 10; Nos: 0. The Motion Carried

8. **PRESENTATION ITEMS**

- A. **Presentation by CSUCI President Richard Yao- “State of the University** – Dr. Yao provided a comprehensive report on the history and current status of the University. California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI), a four-year, public university in Camarillo, California. Established in 2002, it is the youngest of 23 campuses in the CSU family. CSUCI is nestled against the foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains—and close to the Pacific Ocean and the Pacific Coast Highway. CSUCI's currently ranks 13th among 1,198 higher education institutions. for the 2023 Social Mobility Index (SMI) The SMI measures the extent to which a college or university educates more economically disadvantaged students (with family incomes below the national median) at lower tuition and graduates them into good paying jobs. The University is also highly ranked nationally among a number of other rankings for public institutions.

As the only public four-year university in Ventura County, CSU Channel Islands serves as a unique institution in the region. Its economic and fiscal impacts benefit the economies of the local communities in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, the region, and throughout the entire State. These impacts generate significant benefits in the form of increased employment, labor income and economic output. Moreover, CSUCI's operations generate millions in tax revenue — money that goes toward important public services in the county.

- B. **Presentation by Michelle Ascencion, MMC, CERA, REO, Ventura County Clerk-Recorder & Registrar of Voters 2024 Election Process Issues.** Ms. Ascencion distributed a handout with Quick Facts about the November 5, 2024 Presidential General Election and reviewed its content for the Council. Her Fact Sheet is Attached to these minutes for the VCOG Record. She explained the challenges she and her election team faced including changing technology, vote-by-mail procedures, cost increases, securing polling places, recruiting poll worker volunteers and the need for increased security leading up to, during and following election day. She answered numerous questions from the Council about these issues and particularly about the cost for prospective candidates.

- 9. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS-** There were no Council Member comments.

- 10. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned by Chair-Johnson at 6:05 PM.

Next Meeting- November 14, 2024 at the John Spoor Broome Library, CSUCI Campus




**VENTURA COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENTS**

ITEM 9B.

MEMORANDUM

TO: VCOG Members and Alternates

FROM: Hugh R. Riley, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Financial Report

DATE: January 9, 2025

Recommendation:

Receive and file Financial Report for Period September 6, 2024 to January 3, 2025

Discussion:

This report transmits the Ventura Council of Governments (VCOG) Financial reports for the Budget Period from September 6, 2024 to January 3, 2025.

Investments:

The objectives of VCOG’s adopted Investment Policy are safety, liquidity, and yield, with the foremost objective being safety. Prudence, ethics, and delegation of authority are the Policy’s applied standards of care. Below is a summary of VCOG’s investments that comply with the VCOG Investment Policy:

Institution	Investment Type	Maturity Date	Interest-FY to Date- 7/1/24 to 1-3-25	Rate	Balance
Bank of A	Maximizer 2635	N/A	\$10.56	0.03%*	\$62,735.03

* Variable

VCOG Expenses for REAP 2.0 through December 31, 2024 totaled \$9,499.00. These and future expenditures for the program will be reimbursable from SCAG when the REAP 2.0 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is approved by SCAG. VCOG has previously authorized signature of the completed MOU. We are advised that SCAG does not expect to complete processing the MOU until late January 2025.

Reimbursement Request No. 2 for the Local Agency Technical Assistance Grant is pending submittal to CPUC by the Broadband Team Staff. The request will include VCOG Administration Expenses totaling \$ 2,343.75 through December 31, 2024.

ATTACHMENTS: Balance Sheet – As of January 3, 2025
Budget vs. Actual Report - Sept. 6, 2024 to Jan. 3, 2025

Ventura Council of Governments

Balance Sheet

As of January 3, 2025

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
BofA - 5797	0.00
BofA - 9045	93,763.12
BofA MM - 2635	62,732.90
Total Bank Accounts	\$156,496.02
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	0.00
Total Accounts Receivable	\$0.00
Other Current Assets	
Undeposited Funds	0.00
Total Other Current Assets	\$0.00
Total Current Assets	\$156,496.02
Other Assets	
Fraud	0.00
Total Other Assets	\$0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$156,496.02
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable (A/P)	0.00
Total Accounts Payable	\$0.00
Other Current Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	0.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$0.00
Total Current Liabilities	\$0.00
Long-Term Liabilities	
Unearned Income	0.00
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$0.00
Total Liabilities	\$0.00
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	111,291.04
Year End Close Out Account	26,158.51
Net Income	19,046.47
Total Equity	\$156,496.02
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$156,496.02

Ventura Council of Governments
Budget vs. Actuals: Budget_FY25_P&L - FY25 P&L
 July 2024 - June 2025

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Income				
Annual Dinner Sponsorship	9,000.00	9,000.00	0.00	100.00 %
Dues Assessments	64,992.00	64,992.00	0.00	100.00 %
Investments				
Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	10.49	10.00	0.49	104.90 %
Total Investments	10.49	10.00	0.49	104.90 %
Other Types of Income				
LATA Admin Costs		16,278.00	-16,278.00	
LATA Grant Income		356,323.00	-356,323.00	
Total Other Types of Income		372,601.00	-372,601.00	
SCAG - REAP 2.0 Contract Income		411,756.00	-411,756.00	
Total Income	\$74,002.49	\$858,359.00	\$ -784,356.51	8.62 %
GROSS PROFIT	\$74,002.49	\$858,359.00	\$ -784,356.51	8.62 %
Expenses				
Contract Services				
Accounting Fees	525.00	2,500.00	-1,975.00	21.00 %
Audit		5,000.00	-5,000.00	
Executive Administration	21,781.25	45,000.00	-23,218.75	48.40 %
Executive Search	5,263.54	10,000.00	-4,736.46	52.64 %
Legal Fees		300.00	-300.00	
Total Contract Services	27,569.79	62,800.00	-35,230.21	43.90 %
Operations				
Printing and Copying	332.94	700.00	-367.06	47.56 %
Supplies		500.00	-500.00	
Website	970.00	1,400.00	-430.00	69.29 %
Total Operations	1,302.94	2,600.00	-1,297.06	50.11 %
Other Types of Expenses				
Insurance - Liability, D and O	3,563.82	4,400.00	-836.18	81.00 %
LATA Grant Expenses				
Digital Resources (Program)				
Ookla Speed Test Platform		4,180.00	-4,180.00	
Total Digital Resources (Program)		4,180.00	-4,180.00	
EDC Personnel Costs				
Contracts Admin (2%)		4,201.00	-4,201.00	
Executive (9%)		26,387.00	-26,387.00	
Finance (9%)		17,420.00	-17,420.00	
Total EDC Personnel Costs		48,008.00	-48,008.00	
EDC Subcontractors				
Broadband Team Cons. Lead		50,513.00	-50,513.00	
GIS Consultant		23,878.00	-23,878.00	
JPA Formation		142,000.00	-142,000.00	
Senior Broadband Consultant		53,200.00	-53,200.00	

Ventura Council of Governments

Budget vs. Actuals: Budget_FY25_P&L - FY25 P&L

July 2024 - June 2025

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Strategy Project Lead		34,544.00	-34,544.00	
Total EDC Subcontractors		304,135.00	-304,135.00	
VCOG LATA Admin Costs	2,562.50	16,278.00	-13,715.50	15.74 %
Total LATA Grant Expenses	2,562.50	372,601.00	-370,038.50	0.69 %
Total Other Types of Expenses	6,126.32	377,001.00	-370,874.68	1.63 %
REAP 2.0 Costs				
Project 1 - Technical Assistance				
TASK 1 - Program Administration	1,445.50	10,000.00	-8,554.50	14.46 %
TASK 2 - Project Management	8,053.50	31,756.00	-23,702.50	25.36 %
TASK 3 - Procure Consultant		5,000.00	-5,000.00	
TASK 4 - Develop AFFH-TA		220,000.00	-220,000.00	
TASK 5 - Pro-housing Designation		100,000.00	-100,000.00	
Total Project 1 - Technical Assistance	9,499.00	366,756.00	-357,257.00	2.59 %
Project 2 (OCOg)		45,000.00	-45,000.00	
Total REAP 2.0 Costs	9,499.00	411,756.00	-402,257.00	2.31 %
Travel and Meetings				
Annual Dinner	9,087.53	9,000.00	87.53	100.97 %
Conference and Meetings	1,370.44	2,000.00	-629.56	68.52 %
Travel		3,202.00	-3,202.00	
Total Travel and Meetings	10,457.97	14,202.00	-3,744.03	73.64 %
Total Expenses	\$54,956.02	\$868,359.00	\$ -813,402.98	6.33 %
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$19,046.47	\$ -10,000.00	\$29,046.47	-190.46 %
Other Income				
Transfer From Reserve Account		10,000.00	-10,000.00	
Total Other Income	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$ -10,000.00	0.00%
NET OTHER INCOME	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$ -10,000.00	0.00 %
NET INCOME	\$19,046.47	\$0.00	\$19,046.47	0.00%



ITEM 9C.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members and Alternates
FROM: Hugh Riley, Executive Director 
SUBJECT: Register of Warrants and Debt Card Transactions
DATE: January 9, 2024

Recommendation:

Approve the Register of Warrants for expenditures and Debit Card Transactions incurred from September 6, 2024 to January 3, 2025

Discussion:

This report presents expenditures including bank debit card transactions incurred by the Ventura Council of Governments for the period September 6, 2024 to January 3, 2025. It is prepared in addition to the Financial Report so that the Council may be fully informed as to the actual expenditure of funds for services and other costs to the organization.

ATTACHMENTS: Warrant and Debit Card Registers

**Register of Warrants
Ventura Council of Governments
January 9, 2025**

Transactions from to Sept. 6, 2024 to January 3, 2025

<u>Check #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Paid To</u>	<u>Inv. Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
720	09/19/24	DJ's California Catering	09/19/24	Annual Dinner Deposit	\$ 500.00
721	10/01/24	Dr. Chris Williamson	10/01/24	VCOG REAP 2.0 Task 2.1	\$ 3,127.00
722	10/02/24	Caroline Carter	10/01/24	Bookkeeping Services- Sept.	\$ 93.75
723	10/02/24	Tripepi-Smith	09/30/24	Executive Dir. Search	\$ 623.75
724	10/03/24	Hugh Riley, Pro. Management, LLC	07/31/24	VCOG- Contract Exec. Director	\$ 5,750.00
725	10/03/24	Hugh Riley, Pro. Management, LLC	07/31/24	VCOG LATA Grant Admin.	\$ 468.75
726	10/05/24	V.C. Digital	10/03/24	Printing & Copying	\$ 200.88
727	10/10/24	DJ's California Catering	10/12/24	Annual Dinner --Final Pmt.	\$ 7,025.53
728	10/10/24	Natalie Gelman	09/23/24	Annual Dinner- Entertainment	\$ 500.00
729	10/10/24	Diane Ippel	09/23/24	Annual Dinner- Entertainment	\$ 200.00
730	10/10/24	DJ's California Catering	10/10/24	Annual Dinner - Bar	\$ 862.00
731	10/24/24	Hugh Riley, Pro. Management, LLC	10/21/24	Travel Reimbursement- LOOC	\$ 1,370.44
732	11/01/24	Dr. Chris Williamson	10/01/24	VCOG REAP 2.0 Task 2.1	\$ 2,065.00
733	11/02/24	Caroline Carter	10/02/24	Bookkeeping Services- Oct..	\$ 112.50
734	11/05/24	Tripepe-Smith	10/31/24	Executive Dir. Search	\$ 4,639.79
735	11/05/24	Hugh Riley, Pro. Management, LLC	11/01/24	VCOG- Contract Exec. Director	\$ 4,625.00
736	11/05/24	Hugh Riley, Pro. Management, LLC	11/01/24	VCOG LATA Grant Admin.	\$ 468.75

<u>Check #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Paid To</u>	<u>Inv. Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
737				VOID- Check Defect	
738	11/05/24	Alliant Insurance Services	09/15/24	SLIP Insurance Premium	\$ 3,563.82
739	12/01/24	Dr. Chris Williamson	12/01/24	VCOG REAP 2.0 Task 2.1	\$ 2,773.00
740	12/03/24	Caroline Carter	12/03/24	Bookkeeping Services- Nov.	\$ 93.75
741	12/03/24	Hugh Riley, Pro. Management, LLC	11/30/24	VCOG LATA Grant Admin.	\$ 250.00
742	12/03/24	Hugh Riley, Pro. Management, LLC	11/30/24	VCOG- Contract Exec. Director	\$ 4,437.50
743	12/05/24	V.C. Digital	12/05/24	Printing & Copying	\$ 73.39
744	01/31/25	Dr. Chris Williamson	12/31/24	VCOG REAP 2.0 Task 2.1	\$ 1,032.50

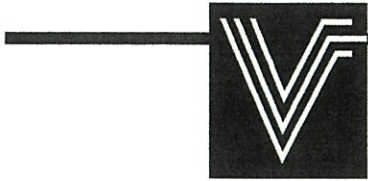
**Register of Debit Card Transactions
Ventura Council of Governments**

January 9, 2024

Transactions from September 6, 2024 to January 3, 2025

<u>Card #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Paid To</u>	<u>Inv. Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
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NONE



MEMORANDUM

TO: VCOG Members and Alternates

FROM: Hugh R. Riley, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: VCOG Meeting Schedule- 2025

DATE: January 9, 2025

Recommendation:

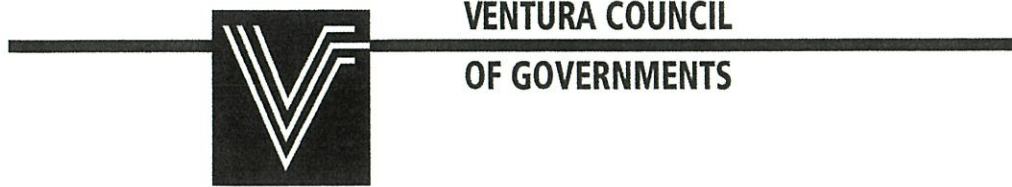
Approve VCOG Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year

Discussion:

The proposed VCOG Meeting Schedule for 2025 is attached. Please enter these dates on your calendar. Due to scheduling misfits and individual commitments of members, I am recommending that we change the Council Meeting time to 3:00 PM until 5:30 PM beginning with the March 13, 2025 Council Meeting as shown on the attached schedule. The Administrative Committee will continue with the same starting time of 2:30 PM.

Please let me know if this change is a problem for you.

ATTACHMENTS: VCOG Meeting Schedule for 2025



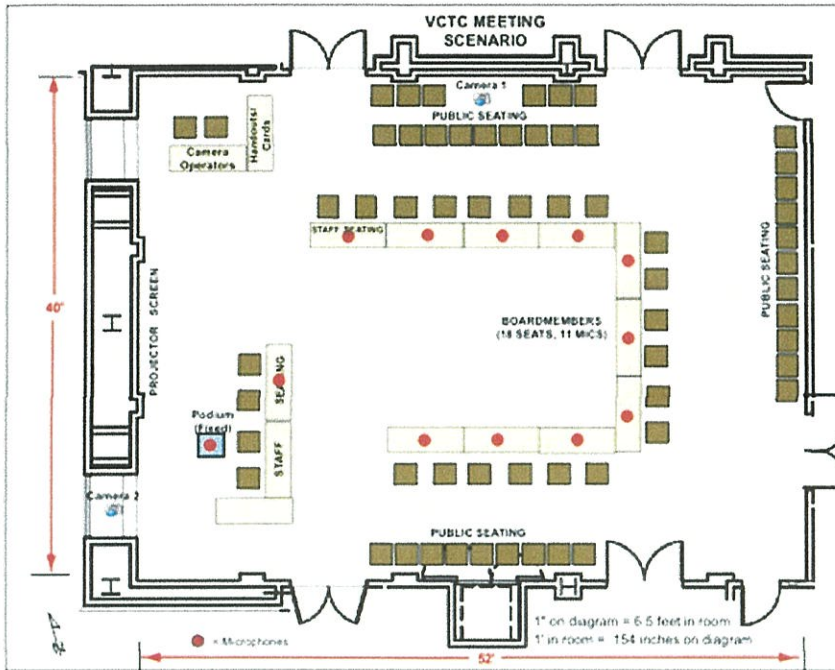
Schedule of VCOG Meetings for 2025

Board Meeting- Camarillo City Hall Council Chambers, 601 Carmen Dr., Camarillo 93010 unless otherwise listed, on the Thursdays shown below from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the March meeting forward.

January 9, 2025 (*Camarillo City Library-Community Room*) 4:00 PM
March 13, 2025
May 15, 2025 (*Camarillo City Library-Community Room*)
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.

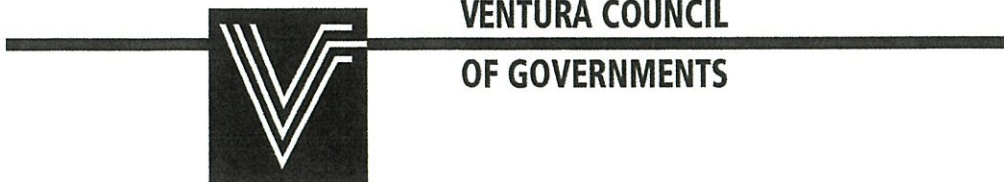
January 16, 2025
March 20, 2025
May 22, 2025
June 19, 2025
July 17, 2025
Sept. 18, 2025
Oct. 23, 2025
Nov. 20, 2025



dtinnessen@cityofcamarillo.org

8:07 AM

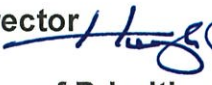
Thank you, that will work out just fine. You are now 10-98 on this.



**VENTURA COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENTS**

MEMORANDUM

Item 9E.

TO: Council Members and Alternates
FROM: Hugh R. Riley, Executive Director 
SUBJECT: Approve VCOG 2025 Program of Priorities
DATE: January 9, 2025

Recommendation:

Review and Approve proposed 2025 VCOG Program of Priorities as recommended by the VCOG Administrative Committee.

Discussion:

This report transmits the proposed VCOG 2024 Program of Priorities and changes as recommended by the Administrative Committee at their November 20, 2024 Committee Meeting. Changes to the Program of Priorities recommended by the Administrative Committee are marked in the Legislative Format of the document attached. There were no additional comments or suggestions for changes received from Council Members.

A clean copy of the program is also attached.

ATTACHMENT: 1. Propose VCOG 2025 Program of Priorities- In Legislative Format
2. Propose VCOG 2025 Program of Priorities- Clean Copy

VCOG 2025 PROGRAM OF PRIORITIES

Collaboration with Regional Partners

Regional solutions for municipal services

- Public safety dispatch services
- Animal Services
- Graffiti abatement

Countywide High Speed Internet Access i.e. 5G, Fiber and Broadband

- Redundancy
- Speed or Bandwidth
- [Digital Inequities](#)
- [Ventura County Regional Broadband Initiative](#)

Economic Development

- Business retention/attraction issues
- Sales tax measures
- On-line sales impacts to local revenues
- Economic stimulus measures

Homelessness

Housing Issues

- Addressing Substandard Housing
- Second Dwelling Unit (REAP Program)
- Displacement
- Local control of land use
- Affordability (REAP Program)

Infrastructure Funding Issues

- Water Supply Reliability/sustainability
- Sustainable Groundwater Management
- Clean sustainable waterways, beaches, and harbors
- Develop storm water capture, storage and reuse
- Treatment and reuse of wastewater

Legislative Advocacy (See Legislative Program)

Energy resource sustainability

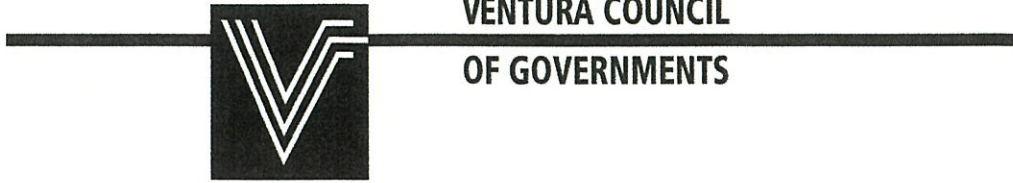
Solid Waste Management

- Landfill Capacity and Emerging Waste-to-Energy Technology

Technology Trends in Transportation

- Emerging Trends i.e. self-driving cars, drones, scooters and e-bicycles.

Short-term - Rentals Impacts



MEMORANDUM

Item 9F.

TO: Council Members and Alternates
FROM: Hugh R. Riley, Executive Director 
SUBJECT: Review and Approve - 2023 VCOG Legislative Program
DATE: January 9, 2025

Recommendation:

Approve proposed VCOG Legislative Program for 2025 as recommended by the VCOG Administrative Committee.

Discussion:

This report transmits the proposed VCOG 2025 Legislative Program as recommended by the Administrative Committee at their November 20, 2023 Committee Meeting. Changes to the Program recommended by the Administrative Committee are marked in the Legislative Format of the document attached.

There were no additional comments or suggestions for changes received from Council Members.

A clean copy of the Program is also attached

ATTACHMENT: 1. Proposed - VCOG 2025 Legislative Program- Legislative Format
2. Proposed - VCOG 2025 Legislative Program- Clean Copy

Item 9F.

VENTURA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS 2024⁵ LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Ventura Council of Governments (VCOG) Legislative Program is to protect and promote the regional interests of the governmental entities within Ventura County on priority issues and matters that may impact those entities. In this vein, VCOG's legislative efforts are intended to support the fiscal stability of local government, and to provide for and preserve local control of governance and service delivery. The annual adoption of a Legislative Platform will guide the VCOG Board (Board) and staff in evaluating and taking appropriate action upon legislative proposals introduced at the state and federal levels. The goals of VCOG's Legislative Program are to:

- Advocate the region's legislative interests at the state and federal levels;
- Inform legislators and the VCOG Board regarding key issues and legislation that could have potential impacts on the region;
- Participate with other Councils of Government, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), the League of California Cities, the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), National League of Cities (NLC), Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC), and other regional agencies on legislative issues of importance to the region;
- Seek support and assistance for regional projects, services and programs that enhance public services.

PROCESS

The VCOG Legislative Committee, comprised of staff from the ten cities, County, and the League of California Cities representative, shall review the status of legislative proposals and make recommendations to the VCOG Board consistent with the annually adopted Legislative Platform. In addition to the direction provided in the Platform, the Committee will consider positions established by the League of California Cities, California State Association of Counties, National League of Cities, and Southern California Association of Governments. VCOG will not address matters that are not pertinent to the region's local government services, such as partisan, socially divisive, or international issues.

When timely action is needed before the VCOG Board is able to convene to authorize a position, staff is authorized to prepare position letters for the Chair's signature, provided such position is consistent with the VCOG Legislative Platform or positions established by the League of California Cities, California State Association of Counties, National League of Cities or the Southern California Association of Governments. Should any of these positions be in conflict, no action will be taken without specific Board direction.

Should the Chair not be available to sign a position letter, the Vice Chair shall be authorized to sign the letter in lieu of the Chair. If neither the Chair nor Vice Chair is available, the Executive Director shall be authorized to sign in lieu.

All members of VCOG shall receive copies of position letters prepared on behalf of VCOG.

PRIORITIES

The primary priority areas for VCOG's 2024 Legislative Program include:

- Land Use and Environment
- Housing and Blight
- Economic Development
- Public Infrastructure
- Solid Waste Management
- Public Safety
- Resources Management
- Local Governance Sustainability
- Public Health

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

A. LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENT

- Support legislation to extend CEQA streamlining provisions for land use projects that are consistent with the SCAG Sustainable Communities Strategy.
- Support use of cap-and-trade revenues and other funding sources for local planning activities to implement the regional Sustainable Communities Strategy.
- Seek to ensure any future funding for SB 375 (Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008) implementation, and similar legislation, including funding for local initiatives.
- Support legislation that would streamline the environmental review process without compromising environmental quality standards or the public's ability to review and comment.
- Support legislation and/or funding for remediation of superfund sites.

B. HOUSING AND BLIGHT

- Support amending state policies to give jurisdictions flexibility to provide affordable housing appropriate for their communities and their region, and remove disincentives and regulatory obstacles.
- Support legislation that provides funding opportunities for affordable housing projects and services.

- Support legislation that addresses occupancy levels and strengthens cities' abilities to reduce overcrowding in residential housing while maintaining adequate parking.
- Support permitting cities to exercise review and land use regulation of group home facilities and residential care facilities in residential neighborhoods including the application of zoning, building, and safety standards.
- Support legislation that defines an equitable process to determine a fair share of new housing needed to respond to growth trends in the region.
- Oppose legislation or regulations that threaten or usurp local control of land use decision-making.
- Support legislation that recognizes the importance of local government jurisdiction regarding planning and zoning issues.
- Support legislation that provides funding for implementing programs to prevent and address homelessness.
- Support Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) reform.

C. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Support the creation where appropriate of economic development programs.
- Support the retention of Naval Base Ventura County.
- Support legislation that funds infrastructure improvements at Naval Base Ventura and the Channel Islands Air National Guard Station.
- Support legislation and programs to encourage job attraction and retention, and to promote a healthy business climate for Ventura County.
- Support legislation related to internet sales to insure fair share disbursement of sales tax as opposed to the current structure.
- Support the enactment and expansion of tax increment financing authority for economic development, infrastructure, and community revitalization.

D. PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

- Support legislation to provide stable, adequate, and long-term funding for public infrastructure needs including but not limited to transportation alternatives, [zero emission vehicle infrastructure](#), streets and roads maintenance, water and wastewater systems, and broadband systems.
- Support legislative efforts of the Ventura County Transportation Commission, SCAG, Caltrans, [Calvans](#), and other appropriate agencies to protect transportation funds from being diverted to other purposes.

- Support State funding for a weigh station (Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Facility) along SR118 between Somis and Moorpark.
- Support legislative efforts to provide flexibility between capital and operations funding for transit,
- Support efforts of the League of California Cities, California State Association of Counties, Association of California Water Agencies, and California Association of Sanitation Agencies to establish an optional funding system for local agencies to finance storm water management, flood control, sewer and water supply projects, set rates to encourage conservation, and reduce water and sewer bills for low income customers.

E. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Support legislation pertaining to VCOG's responsibility for approval of the regional solid waste plan.
- Support legislation that promotes long-term, cost beneficial recycling and conversion technologies.
- Support extended producer responsibility (EPR) legislation that encourages manufacturers to design environmentally friendly products.
- Oppose legislation that would restrict or limit local government's ability to franchise refuse and recycling collection services, to direct municipal or county solid waste flow (flow control), to contractually require haulers to guarantee achievement of AB 939 and SB 1383 goals, or to local government's ability to protect landfill capacity.

F. PUBLIC SAFETY

- Support legislative efforts that strengthen law enforcement's ability to prevent and reduce crime, and support enhanced penalties.
- Support funding opportunities for law enforcement activities and emergency preparedness.
- Support increased local authority and resources to address impacts of early prisoner release policies and criminal recidivism.
- Support legislation that provides funding and resources to local governments to prevent wildfires, mudslides, and other disasters.
- Support Public Safety Power Shutoffs prevention and mitigation efforts.
- [Support legislation that requires local input for the development of Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps and provides for an appeal process.](#)

G. RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

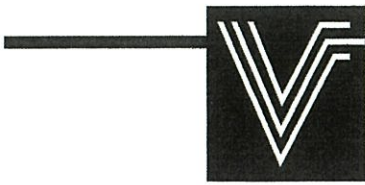
- Support and encourage regulations and procedures that promote common sense implementation of State and Federal water quality control laws, and ensure State and Federal agencies work in collaboration to enable compliance with these laws.
- Support legislation to increase the availability and viability of energy efficiency and renewable energy options for public agencies, residential, and commercial customers.
- Support programs to ensure provision of a safe and reliable water supply.
- Oppose legislation that imposes new regulatory burdens on municipal utility systems without providing funding and/or consideration of the feasibility of monitoring and mitigating such requirements.

H. LOCAL GOVERNANCE SUSTAINABILITY

- Support legislation that protects local control and ensures equitable, dependable and predictable funding for vital community services.
- Support legislation that protects planning sovereignty of all land within jurisdictions geographic boundaries.
- [Support Legislation to allow virtual meeting participation –that does not impact transparency.](#)

I. PUBLIC HEALTH

- Support legislation that protects public health and preserves quality of life.
- Encourage the state of California to fund and sponsor further research into the negative impacts of anticoagulant rodenticides to determine whether the use of these products should be further restricted or banned statewide.
- Support legislation that provides county resources for addressing the mental health/addiction crisis.




**VENTURA COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENTS**

ITEM 10A.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members and Alternates

FROM: Hugh Riley, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Ricole Kelly, Deputy District Attorney, Ventura County Will Present an Update on Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVRs) and the Status of the Ventura County Family Justice Centers- Current and Future

DATE: January 9, 2025

Recommendation:

Receive and discuss report.

Background:

With over nine years of prosecutorial experience, Rikole Kelly has been a steadfast advocate for vulnerable victims. During her tenure at the San Diego County District Attorney's Office, she handled cases spanning misdemeanors to murders, specializing in arson and explosives.

In 2021, Rikole transitioned to the Ventura County District Attorney's Office, where she is dedicated to the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking and sexual exploitation offenses. Collaborating closely with the Ventura County Human Trafficking Task Force and the FBI Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Force, she channels her expertise into raising awareness and ensuring accountability for perpetrators involved in these crimes.




**VENTURA COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENTS**

ITEM 10B.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members and Alternates

FROM: Hugh Riley, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Aimée Brecht-Doscher, Medical Director of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program in Ventura County, operated through the Family Justice Center

DATE: January 9, 2025

Recommendation:

Receive and discuss report.

Background:

Aimée Brecht-Doscher, MD. Aimee is board certified in Ob/Gyn and Clinical Informatics. She has practiced medicine in Ventura County for over twenty years, with a focus on pediatric and adolescent gynecology. In addition to seeing patients, Dr. Brecht-Doscher is the Medical Director of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program in Ventura County, operated through the Family Justice Center. She also serves as Assistant Chief Medical Informatics Officer for the Ventura County Health Care Agency, overseeing development, implementation, and training for Electronic Health Records for all County ambulatory care.