



Legislative Advocacy Forum
February 23, 2022
Agenda

Chair: Melanie Vollbrecht
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM, Zoom

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| I. | Call to Order | Melanie Vollbrecht |
| II. | Flag Salute | Melanie Vollbrecht |
| III. | <u>Legislative Updates</u> | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senator Feinstein• Congresswoman Brownley• Congressman Garcia• Senator Stern• Assemblywoman Valladares• Supervisor Huber• City of Simi Valley• Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District• U.S. Chamber of Commerce• Southern California Edison• Simi Valley Unified School District• Metropolitan Water District of Southern California• Calleguas Municipal Water District• California State University Channel Islands• Ventura County Community College District• Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce• <u>SPECIAL GUEST</u>: State Assemblywoman Jacqui Irwin | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Geneva MonteleoneCarla Mena Matt Rogers Nicholas GainesAnthony AngeliniJoel AngelesSamantha ArgabriteElaine FreemanJennings ImelRudy GonzalesDr. Jason PeplinskiJacque McMillanDaniel DruganCelina ZacariasBernardo PerezJim VigdorJim Vigdor |
| IV. | Other Business | |
| V. | Adjourn | |

Next meeting: March 23, 2022 – 8:00 AM – [VIA ZOOM](#)

Disclaimer: The Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce Legislative Advocacy Forum is a committee of the Chamber of Commerce. The Committee acts as a forum for discussion about legislative activity and provides the Board of Directors with recommendations for decisions. Comments made at committee meetings do not represent the views of the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce or the Board of Directors.

Call to Order – 8:02 AM

Present: Melanie Vollbrecht, Elaine Litster, Geneva Monteleone, Carla Mena, Anthony Angelini, Samantha Argabrite, Elaine Freeman, Jennings Imel, Jacque McMillan Bernardo M Perez, Jill Haney, Kathi Van Etten, John Tolson, Elizabeth Zachary, Amy Corneau, Rocky Rhodes, Maral Kirakosian, Bruce Bromberg, Harry Van Dyke, Jill Abele, Karen Hoyle, Nina Chouinard, Theresa Pennington, Jennifer Finnerty

Legislative Updates:

Senator Feinstein: reported by Geneva Monteleone

- National Defense Authorization Act signed by the President providing funding for military and National Defense. Extends National Guard's FireGuard Program providing detection and real-time tracking of wildfires allowing firefighting agencies to more effectively fight fires.
- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act signed by the President. Law includes funding for wildfires and drought, undergrounding power lines, forest management, fireproofing homes, broadband, roads and bridges, public transit, clean energy, airports, ports and waterways.
- Provides \$4.2B to CA over 5 years for highway bridges; \$173M from Army Corp of Engineers for infrastructure inspections and projects; Bureau of Reclamation plans to invest \$1.66B to improve country's water infrastructure, much of which expected to go to CA.

Congresswoman Brownley: reported by Carla Mena

- \$5M in federal funding has been allocated to the Pt Hueneme trenching project

Congressman Garcia: reported by Matt Rogers

- Introduced Inflation Protection Act barring legislation estimated to increase legislation until year over year inflation rate drops below 4.5%
- Co-sponsored the Home Run Act to ensure Big Tech companies are treated as common carriers and requires largest market dominant platforms to adhere to 1st Amendment standard for content moderation.
- Co-sponsored the TEAM Act of 2022 empowering employees and employers to come together for their mutual benefit, without having to fear heavy-handed legal action from outdated labor laws.
- Signed letters to DHS Inspector General requesting comprehensive review of the Administrations border policies; to Dept of Justice regarding freight thefts, impact on the supply chain requesting immediate actions to prosecute those responsible.

Assemblymember Valladares: reported by Anthony Angelini

- AB 321 – Provides dual language learners priority enrollment for State childcare and preschool
- AB 217 – Back to School Tax Holiday – Exempts certain BTS items from Sales tax on certain day prior to start of school.
- AB 1400 – Single Payer Health care – would require tax increases to provide health care to all Californians; impacting medicare and medicaid, etc.
- SB 866 – Allows minors between ages of 12 and 17 to get vaccinated without parental permission

City of Simi Valley: reported by Samantha Argabrite

- Current street construction is a 2 year project laying fiber to every home and business in Simi Valley.
- SB 9 – extended urgency ordinance for 22 months which requires compliance with property development guidelines in place when sub-dividing property.
- New City District maps were submitted to City Council. Those meeting the submission criteria will move forward and will have a 2nd reading at the February 14th City Council Meeting.
- New Waste Regulations – City adopting elements of new recycling codes

Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District: Elaine Freeman reported

- District is currently monitoring AB 1543 which will place limitations on the Government revenue spend that can negatively impact the Park District. Opposing in current format.

US Chamber of Commerce: Jennings Imel reported

- US Chamber supported the infrastructure bill recently passed and signed into law by the President
- US Chamber anticipating the deconstruction of the failed Build Back Better Bill into components that can potentially move through Congress
- US Chamber expecting Competition and Anti-Trust bills to be put forward and to move through Congress
- US Chamber forwarded a coalition letter to Congress proposing an initiative to have a National Information Privacy Bill to provide consistency around the country vs. State by State mosaic of different types of legislation to accomplish the same thing.

Metropolitan Water District: Jacque McMillan reported

- Positive news on the water front. Recent rains have brought back reservoirs to 50% of capacity and with 2 more good rain events for the remainder of this rainy season we could restore to near to or full capacity.
- There is a long list of bills in progress to provide funding for a variety of water initiatives such as Wildfire Water relief, Water innovation, for agriculture relief, waste water, water recycling, water storage and conveyance projects

Ventura County Community College District: Bernardo Perez reported

- VCCCD is monitoring Governors Proposed budget and is monitoring the potential for significant changes by the May Budget Revise.
- Current Chancellor Gillespie is retiring in June. Ongoing search for a successor candidate. Soliciting for candidates and suggestion for job qualifications.
- Mentioned focus on Economic and Workforce Development

Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce: Jim Vigdor reported

- Announced Opposition coalition letters submitted on: AB 1400 – Single Payer Insurance Program; AB 1192 requiring companies to publish data on wages, benefits, promotions for State to classify the company; SB 213 which provides a Worker’s Compensation presumption for Cancer, MSD’s, Covid, etc. For all healthcare workers.
- Announced support Coalition letter for US Chamber national privacy initiative
- Advised the return of the IMPACT newsletter at least quarterly
- Want to foster improved communication among membership and Chamber to have more details on legislative impacts specific impacts to our local businesses.

Adjourn – 8:55 AM