



**Legislative Advocacy Forum
January 26, 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 | Geneva Monteleone
Carla Mena
Charles Navarro
Nicholas Gaines
Victoria Garcia
Joel Angeles
Samantha Argabrite
Elaine Freeman
Vartan Djihanian
Rudy Gonzales
Dr. Jason Peplinski
Jacque McMillan
Daniel Drugan
Celina Zacarias
Bernardo Perez
Jim Vigdor |
| IV. | Other Business | |
| V. | Adjourn | |

Next meeting: February 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 – 8:03 AM

Present: Samantha Shapiro, Melanie Vollbrecht, Bernardo M Perez, Grace Leo, Jill Haney, John Tolson, Dan Drugan, Elizabeth Zachary, Elaine Litster, Dr. Jason Peplinski, Amy Corneau, Matt Rogers, Brooke Grayson, Elaine Freeman, Janice Parvin, Geneva Monteleone, Carla Mena, Anthony Angelini, Rocky Rhodes, Samantha Argabrite, Jacque McMillan, Vartan Djihanian, Kathi Van Etten, Jim Vigdor, Daryl Kleintob, Joao Silverstein

Legislative Updates:

Senator Feinstein: reported by Geneva Monteleone

- The Senator has been supportive of federal legislation efforts to support wildfire/drought mitigation
- The federal government has issued a Continuing Resolution to fund the government through December 3
- The Senate passed funding for drought resiliency and wildfire mitigation

Congresswoman Brownley: reported by Carla Mena

- The Congresswoman was in district in October and the VA Secretary came to Ventura County as well as other parts of Southern California to tour the VA Greater LA campus
- They recognized National Dyslexia Month Awareness
- \$5M in federal funding has been allocated to the Pt Hueneme trenching project

Congressman Garcia: reported by Matt Rogers

- They are focused on the spending/infrastructure bill and waiting for it to move forward
- All appropriations processes are currently on hold
- The military spouse reciprocity act bill passed

Assemblymember Valladares: reported by Anthony Angelini

- There was a hearing with EDD on Monday to discuss their operational issues and ways to address them; the Assemblymember supports this
- EDD issues existed pre-pandemic, but they were increased by the volume created during the pandemic
- The Governor signed the Assemblywoman's AB 277
- They supported AB 61 and SB 314 which extended the outdoor dining option for restaurants, and SB 389 which expanded the sale of to go alcoholic beverages
- Regarding SB 9, it is implied that it would not override HOA restrictions

City of Simi Valley: reported by Samantha Argabrite

- On Monday, City Council heard about the new housing bills signed by the Governor and received a presentation overview of SB 8, 9 and 10
- They received and reviewed the housing element which would re-zone areas of the city to accommodate state restrictions, and with that they will have to make changes to their city and noise provisions
- City Council decided to re-open in person Council meetings at the next meeting
- They are expecting to review the RV ordinance at their next meeting

Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District: Elaine Freeman reported

- The Governor allocated \$100M to special districts who have been impacted by COVID and RSRPD has applied for funds

- The housing bills do also have an implication on RSRPD related to fees and operations
- RSRPD celebrated its 60th anniversary last week

US Chamber of Commerce: Vartan Djihanian reported

- The \$3.5T reconciliation bill will increase costs for corporations, small businesses and consumers
- US Chamber opposes the bill and encourages contacting federal reps to discourage them from voting on it
- Supply chain issues are widespread and expected to continue in 2022 due to port backups and lack of drivers
- Cost of products, goods, and shipping has increased and that is expected to pass on to the consumer

Simi Valley Unified School District: Dr. Jason Peplinski reported

- SVUSD is very frustrated by public health work being placed on school districts
- The school board/administrative staff has no authority to defy the masking and vaccination requirements as it would open them up to personal liability
- Regarding SB 438, many staff and unions pushed against this, but it was still signed by the governor; this requires districts to treat classified staff the same as certified when it comes to pink slips and notify them by March 15. This is unreasonable as the district does not know what their budget will look like for classified staff at that point.
- They have over 60 open positions at the district at all levels
- Mandated testing/vaccination in effect for staff as of last week; requires additional staffing
- Regarding bond work, the district is dealing with increased cost of goods and big project expenses

Metropolitan Water District: Jacque McMillan reported

- New water year began on October 1st
- Last water year ended September 30th as the worst drought year on record; all counties have been placed in a state of emergency
- Water is dwindling, they are hoping for rain
- October so far has been the wettest month due to the storms, but more of that needs to occur

Calleguas Municipal Water District: Dan Drugan reported

- Still in a very tight situation with water even after the storm event this week
- They partnered with MWD, LADWP, and Las Virgenes Water District to leave more of the water for Calleguas and Las Virgenes from MWD as LADWP can access it elsewhere
- Subsequent mandatory conservation measures are expected in November

Ventura County Community College District: Bernardo Perez reported

- Bernardo reported on the County of Ventura redistricting map draft plan 1 that would split Moorpark in to two, and encouraged residents to contact the county to oppose this

Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce: Samantha Shapiro reported

- Chamber is wrapping up the legislative session and will be sharing a vote record in November
- Chamber has launched its employment law poster program, and put out a reminder about the sexual harassment prevention training program offered
- Chamber will be hosting a job fair in partnership with the City on November 9
- Reminder to attend the Simi Valley Street Fair on October 30

Adjourn – 8:55 AM