



Legislative Advocacy Forum
October 28, 2020
Agenda

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

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| I. | Call to Order | Melanie Vollbrecht |
| II. | Self-Introductions | Melanie Vollbrecht |
| III. | Approval of Minutes | Melanie Vollbrecht |
| IV. | <u>Legislative Updates</u> | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senator Feinstein• Congresswoman Brownley• Congressman Garcia• Senator Stern• Assemblywoman Smith• 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 Muncipal Water District• California State University Channel Islands• Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce | Becca Channell
Megan Bland
Charles Navarro
Nicholas Gaines
Ryan Valencia
Joel Angeles
Samantha Argabrite
Elaine Freeman
Vartan Djihanian
Rudy Gonzales
Jason Peplinski
Jacque McMillan
Daniel Drugan
Celina Zacarias
Samantha Shapiro |
| V. | Other Business | |
| VI. | Adjourn | |

Next meeting: January 27, 2021 – 8:00 AM

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.

Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce
Legislative Advocacy Forum
Meeting Minutes – September 23, 2020

Present: Celina Zacarias, Samantha Shapiro, Rudy Gonzales, Tim Gray, Daniel Drugan, Charles Navarro, Melanie Vollbrecht, Elaine Freeman, John Tolson, Kathi Van Etten, Harry Van Dyck, Brian Reed, Jennings Imel, Maral Kirakosian, Richard Moore, Samantha Argabrite, Amy Corneau, Robert Moore, Mike McCaffrey, Ryan Valencia, Jim Vigdor, Karen Troop, Suzette Valladares, Gena Barnart

Call to Order – 8:04 AM

Minutes: Elaine Freeman made a motion to approve the minutes. Harry Van Dyck seconded the motion. All in favor.

Legislative Updates

Congresswoman Brownley: Robert McDonald reported

- The Congresswoman is in DC currently and is eager to vote on a COVID relief bill
- They are also addressing any USPS issues that come up

Congressman Garcia: Charles Navarro reported

- The House passed a continuing resolution for funding until the end of the year
- The Congressman signed a discharge petition to release unspent PPP fund
- The Congressman hosted USDA undersecretary re: wildfires
- He met with Dr. Peplinski to hear concerns related to school districts
- They are still trying to keep the relief bill moving

Assemblymember Smith: Ryan Valencia reported

- End of the session was on August 31st
- They passed a number of bills, including the negotiated tenant relief package (AB 3088)
- The best place to look for updates is covid19.ca.gov
- A lot of bills the Assembly member authored or co-authored were signed including AB 3267
- The Free Clinic of Simi Valley was announced as the District 38 Non Profit of the Year
- They are continuing to complete casework, including DMV and EDD claims
- The \$300 extra for UI has been approved and is working through the EDD

City of Simi Valley: Samantha Argabrite reported

- They had their first city council meeting with a zoom public hearing this week
- The city released the Small Business Grant program and Rental Relief Assistance program

Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District: Elaine Freeman

- Elaine thanked the state legislature for AB 2257 which relieves restrictions of AB 5 on contract employees, which has been helpful for special districts
- The district received a \$1M grant to help with the Arroyo project

U.S. Chamber of Commerce: Jennings Imel reported

- CR passed to fund the government through 12/11
- Senate will be busy with court nominations and the Supreme Court nomination

- Need another COVID relief package
- Most businesses need another round of funding, and also liability protections
- There is a big move to have the house bring up the bill, and the “problem solver” caucus presented their own package

Southern California Edison: Rudy Gonzales reported

- Wildfire mitigation work is still being done; they are trying to do as much work as they can in the evenings or overnight to minimize disruptions
- They won't be cutting off service for nonpayment during the pandemic
- The rotating blackouts were something that happened statewide with the power grid due to the excessive heat; unfortunately led to SCE customers experiencing outages

Calleguas Municipal Water District: Dan Drugan reported

- Started filming on LA/Madera to profile the transformation of the welcome corner area. The city staff are getting a 36K rebate from Metropolitan Water District for the project

CSUCI: Celina Zacarias reported

- The school will be virtual in Spring 2021; they are hoping to open the campus up for June 2021
- The professors and instructors have done a great job in preparing for virtual learning
- The new chancellor of the CSU system will be announced today
- If anyone is having struggles with the CSU system and virtual learning, they are encouraged to reach out to the respective university

Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce: Samantha Shapiro reported

- Chamber continues to urge support for a new federal relief package including additional rounds of benefits for businesses and liability protection
- The Candidate Forum will be on September 30 & October 1
- The Voter's Guide has been released and is available on the website
- The chamber took positions on 5 different ballot measures
- The Chamber continues to meet with the Task Force on Business Recovery to advocate for our businesses to safely reopen and to support those who are opened

Adjourn – 8:58 AM