



**Legislative Advocacy Forum
July 22, 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">• Congresswoman Brownley• Congressman Garcia• Senator Stern• Assemblywoman Smith• Supervisor Huber• City of Simi Valley• Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District• U.S. Chamber of Commerce• Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce• Southern California Edison• Simi Valley Unified School District• Metropolitan Water District of Southern California• California State University Channel Islands• Southern California Gas | Megan Bland
John Morales
Nicholas Gaines
Ryan Valencia
Joel Angeles
Samantha Argabrite
Elaine Freeman
Vartan Djihanian
Samantha Shapiro
Rudy Gonzales
Jason Peplinski
Jacque McMillan
Celina Zacarias
Maria Ventura |
| V. | Other Business | |
| VI. | Adjourn | |

Next meeting: August 26, 2020 – 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.

Meeting held via Zoom

Present: Elaine Freeman, Samantha Shapiro, Rudy Gonzales, Brian Reed, John Morales, Jacque McMillan, Joel Angeles, Vartan Djihanian, Ryan Valencia, Samantha Argabrite, Kathi Van Etten, John Tolson, Tricia Johnston, Harry Van Dyck

Call to Order – 8:05 AM

Legislative Updates:

Congressman Mike Garcia – John Morales

- The congressman was in the district last week and met with local chambers, police departments, and fire departments
- He was a co-sponsor of a companion bill to the senate's Justice Act which would address police monitoring, accountability, and procedures
- They participated in an Academy send off event
- They have their Simi Valley, Santa Clarita and Antelope Valley offices set up and staffed
- John mentioned the PPP Flexibility Act and the EDD response to the issue of employees not returning to work in regards to unemployment and PPP loan forgiveness

Assembly Member Christy Smith – Ryan Valencia

- The state budget and trailer bill will go to a vote on Friday
- Many concessions were made from the governor, including school funding for K-12
- Two of the Assembly Member's bills are moving forward: AB 1837 and AB 3267
- The district office is available to deal with any case work, specifically related to EDD
- COVID19.ca.gov is the best resource for all things COVID-19 related at the state level

County Supervisor Bob Huber – Joel Angeles

- Most businesses have been permitted to reopen
- The supervisor has been pushing for the county to reopen businesses
- They are currently working on wedding venues/receptions and youth sports
- The County Business Assistance Grant Program offers \$5,000 grants for nonprofits and businesses
- They are also working on HOA pools reopening
- The county sent \$300,000 to the free clinic
- They will have a public hearing to discuss the general plan July 16
- They will also address the hemp ordinance
- The county might be changing its seal in the next few months
- Their office is open for any questions or assistance

City of Simi Valley – Samantha Argabrite

- City hall is still closed; they anticipate reopening in the next couple of weeks
- City council meetings are still closed to the public through at least the end of June
- City is reconsidering their plan to reopen to best protect their employees

- They are not holding any land use hearings at this point until they can have public present for public hearings
- Public comments can be submitted to the city clerk's office before noon the day of the meeting or via email to the city clerk the day of the meeting
- They will be addressing the neighborhood council boundary issue on Monday night
- The city employees will be brought back in phases and they have established a return to work protocol to ensure the safety of both employees and members of the public
- City is opening the library via appointment only for small businesses to apply for the county grant program or for individuals to fill out the census

U.S. Chamber of Commerce – Vartan Djihanian

- They are continuing to provide help to all businesses regarding loans
- There is still some money left for PPP funds
- They are hosting a national summit on equality of opportunity Thursday 6/25
- They wrote a letter to congress regarding police reform
- The liability issue is being discussed in the senate

Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District – Elaine Freeman

- The district approved their preliminary budget with priorities including Rancho Santa Susana Park, completion of the activity center, and paying off the new building
- They are still looking for relief as related to AB 5
- They are having discussions on how to deal with emergencies
- The special districts legislative conference was held via zoom this year

Southern California Edison – Rudy Gonzales

- They implemented a policy to not disconnect customers due to nonpayment which is ongoing
- If an individual has lost their job, they can apply for the care rate which reduces the monthly bill by approx.. 30%
- They are still doing wildfire mitigation work
- They moved most of their work to overnight shifts during this time to not interrupt work from home/school from home
- They will be moving schedules back to the daytime as people get back to work

Metropolitan Water District – Jacque McMillan

- Second driest year in history
- Good news is there is about 3 years of reserves in the reservoirs
- Putting noncritical projects on hold for this time
- They are not cutting off any service due to non payment
- They are working on their integrative resource project which looks 50 years ahead
- They are looking at different variables for the delta conveyance project

Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce – Samantha Shapiro

- Chamber is working with the county and the city to call all businesses in Simi Valley to see if they have reopened, what their struggles are, PPE resources, and funding opportunities
- Chamber is here to be a resource for businesses to reopen during this time and has many resources on the website, including graphics that must be posted to reopen

- Chamber was happy to see the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act signed into law which will help many of our businesses who received PPP funds
- The county grant program is a great opportunity for our businesses and nonprofits to get relief they need
- We are participating in weekly conference calls with CalChamber and were awarded the 2020 president's circle award
- Launched the "Simi Works Job Center" for employers and job seekers
- Opposed to AB 398 and AB 3216, both of which would impose further financial burdens on businesses who are struggling

Adjourn - 8:56 AM