



**Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce
Legislative Advocacy Forum
April 26, 2017 Agenda**

Jim Vigdor, Presiding
8:00 a.m. Simi Valley Chamber Boardroom

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| I. | Call to Order | Jim Vigdor |
| II. | Self-Introductions | |
| III. | Approval of Minutes | Jim Vigdor |
| IV. | <u>Legislative Updates</u>
Congresswoman Brownley
Congressman Knight
Senator Stern
Assemblyman Acosta
Supervisor Foy
City of Simi Valley
Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District
US Chamber of Commerce
Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce | Jason Barnes
Katie Varner
Nancy Farias
Taylor Criddle
Brian Miller
Brian Gabler
Elaine Freeman
Jennings Imel
Samantha Shapiro |

Other Agencies:

Cal State Channel Islands, Job & Career Center, Metropolitan Water District,

- VII. Other Business

Next Meeting: May 24, 8:00 a.m.

- VIII. Adjourn

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
March 22, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Present: Katie Varner, Jim Vigdor, Melanie Vollbrecht, Samantha Shapiro, Harry VanDyck, Denis Weber, Elaine Freeman, Jason Barnes, Taylor Criddle, Celina Zacarias, Marie Lakin, Jacquelyn McMilan

Call to Order – 8:06 AM

- I. Denis Weber moved to approve the minutes from February. Elaine Freeman seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.
- II. Jim Vigdor gave an update on the Board of Director's decision regarding SB . At the last meeting, Marie Lakin asked the Chamber to take a position on the Aliso Canyon bill. Jim brought the bill to the Board and they decided not to take a position on the bill as it did not affect Simi Valley.
- III. Jason Barnes reported for Congresswoman Julia Brownley
 - a. The Congresswoman had an income tax assistance workshop at Cal Lutheran University. Individuals who made \$54,000 or less a year could have their taxes prepared for free.
 - b. The Congresswoman has 26 bills as part of her legislative agenda. Some of these include better serving our nation's heroes, infrastructure, health care, veteran homelessness, and the marriage equality act.
- IV. Katie Varner reported for Congressman Knight
 - a. The Congressman is presenting legislation regarding the women's business center for women who want to start businesses.
- V. Marie Lakin reported for Senator Stern.
 - a. The Senator hosted the Youth Civic Engagement hearing, an interactive event to find out why young individuals are not voting. Voter turnout for people between 18-24 year olds is very low. Senator Stern is the Chair of the Elections Committee.
 - b. Civic engagement needs to be redefined, many young people are out volunteering; there is a bill out to lower the voting age to 17.
 - c. The Aliso Canyon bill was pulled from committee at the last minute
 - d. Teacher Tax Credit bill – would give tax credits to teachers
 - e. Restrictions on Edible Marijuana
- VI. Taylor Criddle reported for Assemblyman Acosta
 - a. SB 63 (one of the job killer bills the Chamber is following) was going to the Senate Labor and Industrial committee today
 - b. Assemblyman Acosta is opposed to AB 5 (Opportunity to Work bill); he thinks it is an overreach of government involvement in the business world.
 - c. His major areas of focus are vulnerable Californians, effective government, and keeping a safe district.
 - d. SB 57 – Aliso Canyon bill with Sen. Stern and Sen. Wilk
 - e. AB 754 (Foster Youth Enrichment Act) and SB 784 (Health Insurance Enrichment Grant)
 - f. AB 49 – Workforce Development Task Force
 - g. AB 714 – DMV Auto Renewal Task Force

- h. Assemblyman Acosta will be having a town hall in the Simi Valley city council chambers on May 4th at 5:30 PM
- VII. Elaine Freeman reported for RSRPD
- a. Chumash park was dedicated a few weeks ago
 - b. They have 326 acres on Alamos and are working with the county on the old 118 to expand the parking lot to go under the freeway for the trail head.
 - c. They are relocating the BMX track on Sycamore to Tapo Canyon before Lost Canyons.
 - d. They have started using the Knolls Fire Station.
 - e. Ed Abala was appointed to replace Dee Dee Cavanaugh's vacant board seat.
- VIII. Samantha Shapiro reported for the Simi Valley Chamber
- a. The Chamber is still following the four job killer bills from the previous meeting. They are particularly interested in AB 5, the opportunity to work bill.
 - b. The Chamber is also looking into other bills – AB
- IX. Celina Zacarias reported for California State University, Channel Islands
- a. The Governor of California has proposed \$168 million budget cuts to California State campuses. If that passes, there will have to be tuition increases. The Governor is also requiring the universities to keep up with certain requirements/regulations.
 - b. The Governor wants to increase four year graduation rates, but needs to increase funding so they can facilitate that, among other requirements.
 - c. CSUCI's 4 year graduate rate is 25% and the 2 year graduation rate (transfer students) is 41%
 - d. The infrastructure of the university has not been repaired recently. It has only been repaired 3 times in the 15 years of the campus being opened.
 - e. Over spring break, many students on campus participated in service projects all over the country (mostly paid for on their own) as part of their "capstone" projects.
 - f. President Beck's formal investiture will take place on the CSUCI's campus on May 5th at 2 PM
- X. Jacquelyn McMillan reported for the Metropolitan Water District
- a. This has been the wettest year on record, there has been the most rain since 1895
 - b. 10-20x the volume of the Mississippi river
 - c. The state has not lifted the water restriction mandates, they are trying to make people realize that this type of restrictive living should be a way of life, otherwise we will be in the same type of situation again

Adjourn – 9:02 AM