



**Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce
Legislative Advocacy Forum
NO Meeting August**

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 Pavley
Assemblyman Wilk
Supervisor Foy
City of Simi Valley
Rancho Simi Recreation & Park District
US Chamber of Commerce | Jason Barnes
Mary Bandini
Marie Lakin
Pam Campeau
Brian Miller
Brian Gabler
Elaine Freeman
Jennings Imel |

Other Agencies:

CalState Channel Islands, Job & Career Center, Metropolitan Water District,

- VII. Other Business

Candidate Forum: October 5, 2016 - Grand Vista Hotel

Next Meeting: September 28, 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.



*Thank You to the August Chamber
Conference Room Coffee Sponsor:*

**Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce
Legislative Advocacy Forum
July 27, 2016 Minutes**

Present: Jason Barnes, Marie Lakin, Pam Campeau, Brian Gabler, Elaine Freeman, Lisa Moulton, Steve Knight, Melanie Volbrect, Pat Abruzzese, Celina Zacarias, Jim Vigdor, Denis Weber, Kathi Van Etten, Laura Wucher

The meeting was called to order by Jim Vigdor at 8:05 am.

Jim Vidgor moved approval of the minutes, seconded by Celina Zacarias.

Representing Congresswoman Julia Brownley, Jason Barnes reported that HUD and VA awarded \$113,700 to the city of San Buenaventura and Oxnard to help homeless veterans transition into safe and affordable housing. Congresswoman Brownley believes we have a moral obligation to take care of all who have served in uniform. Port of Hueneme received \$307,500 through the Department of Homeland Security's Fiscal Year 2016 Port Security Grant Program (PSGP). A safe and secure port is a top priority. The US House of Representatives passes H.R. 636, legislation to reauthorize Federal Aviation Administration programs through the end of Fiscal Year 2017. California Lutheran University received \$240,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Representing Senator Fran Pavley, Marie Lakin reported on transportation funding and marijuana laws. If approved, legalized marijuana should be handled in a legislative manner. We need to be sure to not make the same mistakes as Colorado. California faces one of the most severe teacher shortages. A bill (SB 62) to reinstate a program slashed during the recession offers loan forgiveness to graduates who spend four years in a disadvantaged or rural area teaching a subject where there is an identified shortage. The Porter Ranch Gas leak has created the need for clean-up bills, restitution laws and gas company regulations. "No place like home" initiatives passed for transitional residences for the homeless. Models in Utah and San Diego are working.

Jim Vigdor mentioned that homelessness is many times accompanied by mental illness. We need to help them through housing and other areas.

Congressman Steve Knight reported that everyone has been focused on the dangerous Sand Canyon fire that is currently burning. He estimated that it should be contained by the weekend. Congressman Knight discussed constituent services provided by his office and explained that there is legislation working all the time. He reported that 16 kids from our county were accepted into the Academy, a very high achievement. Steve reported on the No Hero Left Untreated Act, the Solar Fuels Innovation Act and the Saint Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Act. A bill was signed to list the strategies for handling underground piping due to the Porter Ranch gas leak. Congressman Knight is also Co-sponsor of the referendum to bring the Olympics back to Los Angeles in 2024.

Representing Assemblyman Scott Wilk, Pam Campeau reported that they have also been busy due to the Porter Ranch gas leak and the Sand Canyon fire. On Tuesday, July 26 Assemblyman Scott Wilk and Assemblyman Tom Lackey submitted a letter to Governor Jerry Brown urging a State Declaration of Disaster in response to the Sand fire. ACR 134 has gone on to the Governor for signature. It will rename First Street Bridge to honor fallen Simi Valley Police Officer Michael Clark. The dedication is planned for August 31. More info to follow. The Scott Wilk Small Business of the Month award will be presented on August 12 at 9:30 a.m. to The Junkyard at the restaurant.

Brian Gabler, City of Simi Valley, reported that the multi-family housing project at the current Rancho Simi Rec and park district site is approved. Brian reported that he had been on a three week break and enjoyed spending time with his family. The ANJAC Movie Studio, part of the Ventura County Film Commission, is a state of the art facility and now also approved. The next meeting is on August 15th.

Elaine Freeman, Rancho Simi Rec, reported that they authorized the pre-screening of the property at Sycamore Head Quarters. Runkle Canyon Park is open and Chumash Park is under construction scheduled to open soon. The fire station will be finished this month at Knoll. The budget is balanced and they have reserves.

Celina Zacharias reported that Channel Islands is fully funded this year. The California State University Board of Trustees appointed Erika D. Beck, Ph.D., as president of California State University, Channel Islands. CSUCI also announced the launch of its own engineering program. The new major will be called mechatronics engineering and will be housed under the Computer Science Department. Celina also reported that there is a \$500,000 grant for a veteran student scholarship.