



**Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce
Legislative Advocacy Forum
March 22, 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
Marie Lakin
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: April 26, 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
Feb. 22, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Present: Katie Varner, Melanie Volbrecht, Jim Vigdor, Harry VanDyck, Elaine Freeman, Denis Weber, Brian Miller, Brian Gabler, Samantha Shapiro, Marie Lakin, Myra

Call to Order – 8:05 AM

- I. Harry VanDyck moved to approve the minutes from the January meeting. Elaine Freeman seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.
- II. Katie Varner reported on behalf of Congressman Steve Knight.
 - a. Congress is currently in recess so there are no legislative updates
 - b. Small business is a priority for him and is a committee that he sits on
 - c. The Congressman is currently in Afghanistan visiting troops. It is his first overseas visit to the Middle East.
 - d. Katie wants to know what they can do as an office to help
- III. Brian Miller reported on behalf of Supervisor Foy
 - a. The Board approved \$198,000 grant to remove giant arrondo in the city. This stops water flow from happening; there are a lot of areas in Ventura County full of this.
 - b. The 2015 crop report came out; strawberries ranked first in Ventura County and lemons ranked second
 - i. There was a total value of \$2.2 billion; crops are a huge part of the local economy
 - c. He reported on the wildlife corridor in Ventura County—the need to maintain wildlife; they are typically dedicated when there is development/division of land.
 - i. There are no wildlife corridors in Ventura County
 - ii. Cal Trans is proposing fencing along the 118 Freeway to prevent animals from getting on the freeway
- IV. Marie Lakin reported on behalf of Senator Henry Stern
 - a. Senator Stern has a big legislative package
 - b. The Aliso Canyon bill issue – jointly with Senator Wilk and Assemblyman Acosta proposes that Aliso Canyon not be opened until they do an investigation into what caused the leak. Senator Stern’s office is looking for the Chamber’s Support.
 - i. Jim Vigdor said he will bring the bill to the Board and get their opinion.
 - c. Senator Stern’s office is proposing legislation to close loopholes and fight sexual assault; legislation regarding an edible marijuana bill
 - d. He is the Chair of the Senate Elections Committee

- i. There are plans to hold a hearing on how to get younger individuals to vote; only 36% of those aged 18-34 voted in the last election
 - e. SB 286 would allow those registered as vote by mail who lose their ballots to vote on election day with regular ballots rather than provisional ballots.
 - f. Disclose Act – needs 2/3 vote, require election mailers to disclose the top 2 main funders
- V. Brian Gabler reported on the City of Simi Valley
 - a. Brian reported on the new police chief interviews; there would most likely be a decision made by the end of next month.
- VI. Elaine Freeman reported for the Park District
 - a. There would be a dedication next Monday for the Chumash Park
 - i. The park has trails, parking lots, easy access to rocky peak, play areas
 - b. They had 15 applicants for the open board seat and filled it with Ed Abala
 - c. They closed on 326 acres on Alamos Canyon and are moving forward on the Oak Park area
- VII. Samantha Shapiro reported on legislative action taken by the Simi Valley Chamber
 - a. The Chamber signed on to 4 coalition bills from Cal Chamber that were deemed “job killer bills” (opposition).
 - i. AB 5 – Opportunity to Work Act
 - ii. SB 33 – Contracts for Goods or Services: Waiver: Fraud, Identity Theft, and Wrongful Use of Personal Identifying Information
 - iii. SB 62 – Family care and medical leave
 - iv. SB 63 – Parental Leave

Adjourn – 8:50 AM