



Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce Legislative Advocacy Forum October 26, 2016 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 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
Next Meeting: November 15th, 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 September 28, 2016 Minutes

Present: Jim Vigdor, Mary Bandini, Melanie Volbrecht, Brian Gabler, Denis Weber, Pam Campeau, Rana Ghadban, Celina Zacharias, Jason Barnes, Brian Miller, Jacquelyn McMillan, Laura Wucher

8:05 am – Jim Vigdor called the meeting to order

- I. Jim Vigdor moved to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Mary Bandini and Celina Zacarias.

- II. Representing Congressman Steve Knight, Mary Bandini reported on H.R. 5719; Empowering Employees Through Stock Ownership Act. She talked about veterans and the instances where some may live in their cars, yet have no legal place to park. Mary reported on H.R. 6094; Regulatory Relief for Small Business, Schools and Nonprofits. Representative Steve Knight (CA-25) co-sponsored a bill this week that would postpone the implementation of an impending federal mandate that would be harmful to employees and owners of small businesses and other organizations. Earlier this year the Department of Labor finalized a rule that would dramatically alter existing regulations on what employees must be paid overtime wages. This regulation is set to go into effect on December 1, 2016, despite pushback from small businesses, non-profits, and universities that fear the drastic change will force them to cut wages and jobs. H.R. 6094, Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, Nonprofits Act, would delay the rule from going into effect for six months. The bipartisan legislation would buy small businesses and other entities much needed time to prepare for the negative impacts of the DOL's mandate.

- III. Representing Congressman Julia Brownley, Jason Barnes reported that Julia Brownley announced the Coast Guard has decided to make their current operating base at Naval Base Ventura County permanent. The Coast Guard's move to NBVC is due to the previously announced closure of the Air Station Los Angeles facility at LAX. The new facility, now known as the Coast Guard Forward Operation Base (FOB) Point Mugu, will now include two mission-ready helicopter units, their crews, and support personnel. This move will allow the Coast Guard to sustain its air search-and-rescue operations and law enforcement activities along the Central California Coast. The move to NBVD will also provide the Coast Guard an option to expand as needed in the future. Rep. Brownley spearheaded legislation in Congress last year that authorized the Coast Guard's move to Point Mugu, as well as legislation that funded the needed facilities. In Camarillo, Rep. Brownley led the local hearing to discuss the use of telemedicine within the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare system. "There is not a one-size-fits-all approach to providing healthcare to veterans. We must foster all avenues of ensuring quality, timely healthcare for our veterans," Rep. Brownley said.

- IV. Representing Assemblyman Scott Wilk, Pam Campeau reported that the 2015-16 legislative session wrapped up on August 31. In the last two weeks of the session, Assemblyman Wilk voted on over 750 bills.

- a. The Governor has until September 30th to sign or veto any bills that the legislature passed during the end of session. The Governor still has almost half of the bills to act on by Friday. Assemblyman Wilk was the principal co-author of AB 2847 which requires the High Speed Rail Authority to publicly disclose any significant change to its business plan and identify projected financing costs for each segment of the project. The bill is still waiting for the Governor's action. A state transportation fix has not yet been approved since the Governor called a special session on the topic earlier this year. The legislature left the Special Session on Transportation Infrastructure Funding open in hopes of a potential compromise being struck before the next legislative session starts in December.
- V. Representing Supervisor Peter Foy, Brian Miller reported that the county has been mourning over Ryan Osler's death. Fire Engineer Ryan Osler was a passenger in a fire water tender truck that rolled over near a roundabout on Highway 246 near Purisima Road. He was on his way to help battle the blaze threatening Vandenberg Air Force Base. His funeral will be held on Monday but is not open to the public.
- a. Brian Miller also reported that the county approved a \$2.8 million build contract for a mental health wing at the jail. This wing should be beneficial to some of the county and state mental health issues. Brian also discussed the Free Clinic. Ventura County is working on consolidating facilities. Supervisor Foy has been working to get the county to allow the Free Clinic to use the building located at 2003 Royal Avenue. Brian also reported that Ventura County now has its first case of Zika Virus.
- VI. Brian Gabler, City of Simi Valley, reported that although we have a tree preservation ordinance, it has come to light that some trees are getting too large and blocking signage to businesses. Brian reported that they will be looking at this ordinance and how it affects business. He said it is expensive to have trees removed. Brian also reported that the Governor just signed a bill that would allow for "granny flats." Some of these units are currently allowed on certain lots. This proposal could help the owners of unpermitted granny flats and converted garages legalize their second units. It offers a limited form of amnesty for people who own homes with unpermitted "second dwelling units," more commonly known as granny flats. Without amnesty, the owners of the units are vulnerable to fees and fines that could run into the tens of thousands of dollars. Allowing amnesty for these units might be a positive thing for the current housing problem. More legislation is coming.
- VII. Celina Zacarias, CSU Channel Islands, reported that they have been very busy with their new president, Dr. Erica Beck. Dr. Beck arrived one week before classes and Celina said it is exciting to have her on campus. Dr. Beck came from Nevada State College and will succeed President Richard Rush, who has headed the 4,800 student campus since 2001 and will retire at the end of the school year. Celina reported that there are 6,611 incoming freshman this year, the largest class ever. In addition there are 92 new veteran students. CSU Channel Islands receives approximately 21,000 applications each year so Celina said to apply early. FAFSA will open enrollment earlier this year on October 1st for fall 2017. Enrollment closes on November 30th. The FAFSA workshops are available for those who need assistance filling out the forms.