



**JEFF GORELL**  
Supervisor, 2nd District  
**ISRAEL RODRIGUEZ**  
District Representative  
Supervisor Jeff Gorell



**REGULAR  
MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**January 29, 2026**

**7:00 PM**

**Municipal Advisory Council  
Somis, California**

**Somis Elementary School  
Multipurpose Room**

**5268 North Street  
Somis, CA 93066**

**MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

- Bob Fulkerson,  
Chair
- Krista Nowak,  
Vice Chair
- Tyler Cobb
- John "Jack" Foss
- Patricia Martinez

**Welcome to the meeting of the Somis Municipal Advisory Council (MAC), the advisory council for the unincorporated area of Somis to Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorell.**

**For More Information**

**<https://supervisorgorell.venturacounty.gov/advisory-councils/somis-mac/>**

## OPENING

### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Bob Fulkerson called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

### **2. Roll Call**

Council Members' Present:

Chair Bob Fulkerson, Vice Chair Tyler Cobb, Patricia Martinez, John (Jack) Foss, Krista Nowak

A quorum was present.

### **3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America**

Led by Chair Bob Fulkerson.

### **4. Nominations and Election of the 2026 Somis MAC Chair and Vice Chair**

#### **Chair (2026)**

Nomination of Bob Fulkerson for Chair made by Jack Foss, seconded by Tyler Cobb. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Vice Chair (2026)**

Nomination of Krista Nowak for Vice Chair made by Tyler Cobb, seconded by Patricia Martinez. The motion passed unanimously.

### **5. Approval of the Minutes – October 23, 2025**

Minutes were presented. No corrections were requested.

Motion to approve made by Krista Nowak, seconded by Jack Foss. The motion passed unanimously.

### **6. Agenda Review**

Field Representative Israel Rodriguez requested that, due to expected length of discussion, the Firewise presentation (Item 15) be heard prior to the Water District 19 report (Item 14). Chair Fulkerson agreed. The order was adjusted accordingly.

## **7. Consent Agenda Items (a–c)**

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda made by Patricia Martinez, seconded by Tyler Cobb. The motion passed unanimously.

### **a. California Highway Patrol Safety Report**

RECEIVED AND FILED.

Conejo Grade Scales Supervisor provided verbal remarks:

- The Highway 118 truck-scale facility has remained closed for nearly two years after the original contractor failed to meet requirements. Caltrans has re-bid the project; reopening timeline remains uncertain.
- CHP has implemented “strike force” operations targeting truck bypass activity along Highway 118 and Santa Rosa Road.
- An additional officer is being deployed 1–2 times weekly.
- Two new officers have been hired and will focus on commercial vehicle enforcement once training is completed.

### **b. Ventura County Fire Department Safety Report**

RECEIVED AND FILED.

### **c. Ventura County Sheriff’s Department Update**

RECEIVED VERBAL REPORT.

Sheriff’s Office reported:

- Minimal crime from October through early January.
- Ongoing issue of mail theft in the areas of Groves Place and La Cumbre Road.
- During recent storms, debris was minimal due to overnight clearing by Ventura County Fire Department’s wildland cutting crew.

A resident raised frustration regarding vehicles blocking the drive-through mailbox at the Somis Post Office. Law enforcement officer clarified that the area is private property and not enforceable by citation.

## **8. Public Comments – Non-Agenda Items**

### **Tressa Lucas**

Ms. Lucas addressed omissions and inaccuracies in prior minutes:

- No record of prior lighting concern with Worth Road water tanks.
- No documentation of lighting concerns at the AGRX storage facility.
- No record of clarification requests regarding storage uses at AGRX.
- The Somis Draft Plan had been received and filed without documentation of a request to pull it from Consent or hold a special meeting.
- Tressa's name was misspelled despite correct spelling on her comment card.

She emphasized that minutes serve as official public records and must consistently reflect public comment.

Israel Rodriguez acknowledged the concern and stated improvement in minute documentation is a priority.

### **Jim Pallerino – Water Availability and Fire Flow**

Mr. Pallerino raised serious concerns regarding water availability for the Bell Ranch/farmworker housing development:

- He was told more than two years ago that a 12-inch water line would be installed within two years; this has not occurred.
- Observed that a recent fire flow test showed strong initial pressure that significantly diminished within roughly three minutes.
- He noted the existing 8-inch cast iron main (circa 1927), approximately three miles long, likely has internal constriction.
- Jim expressed concern that in a fire event, downhill draw toward the development would deprive upstream homes (La Cumbre, Palomino, Aspen, Blackberry, Peppermill, Charlie Lane) of water.

Mike Mishler confirmed the replacement line remains on the capital list but is unfunded and unscheduled.

### **9. Office of Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorell's Comments**

Israel Rodriguez reported:

- Supervisor Gorell was absent due to a family medical procedure and sent his regrets.
- Supervisor Gorell was unanimously elected Chair of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors for 2026 by fellow Ventura County Supervisors.
- The Gorell Bike Rodeo / E-Bike Safety Event was hosted January 24, 2026, with CHP, VCFD, Sheriff's Office, Search & Rescue, and Conejo Recreation & Park District.

- Rapid growth in high-speed e-bikes (some approaching 60 mph), helmet non-use, riding without lights, and dangerous behavior were addressed.
- Certain violations may result in impound and fines totaling approximately \$3,800.
- Parents may be liable for malicious acts by children causing accidents as a result of their e-bikes.
- More than \$650,000 was secured via the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for wildfire prevention.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **15. Report From Firewise Ad-Hoc Committee**

Presented by Jack Foss and Natasha Saxena, Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council.

Key points:

- Firewise USA recognition requires a leadership team, Cal Fire-reviewed risk assessment, and a 3-year action plan.
- Annual reporting of volunteer hours and estimated mitigation value.
- Insurance discounts may range 1–15%.
- Mini-grants typically range \$1,000–\$5,000.
- Emphasis on Zone Zero (0–5 feet) and compliance with VCFD Standards.
- Free home assessments funded through Cal Fire and Ventura County Community Foundation.
- There was discussion on whether Somis should apply as one community or multiple smaller neighborhood designations. Pros and cons were discussed with each approach.
- Approximately ten residents volunteered to assist on the FireWise ad-hoc committee.

### **14. Status Report on Water District 19 (WWD19)**

Presented by Paul Chan, Director of Public Works – Water & Sanitation.

This item generated extended discussion and community engagement.

#### **System Overview**

- WWD19 has approximately 800 service connections.
- Local well production cost: ~\$600 per acre-foot.
- Imported water cost: ~\$2,500 per acre-foot.
- Maintaining local production reduces long-term dependency on imported water.

## **Financial Overview**

- Net positive 4 of last 10 years; net negative 6 of 10.
- Reserves currently ~\$1.2–1.3 million; projected to fall near ~\$900,000 by FY 2026.
- At 0% rate increase, insolvency was projected around February 2027.
- An 22.3% rate increase is required to break even.
- An 11.9% increase would reduce the deficit but not eliminate it.
- CPI (utilities CA) ~5.14%.
- Calleguas wholesale rates increased ~4.87%.
- WWD19 rates increased ~2.94% over the past decade.
- Supervisor Gorell previously paused a proposed 15% increase to allow community discussion.

## **Regulatory Pressures**

- AB 367 requires fire flow upgrades and facility hardening.
- Manganese is expected to become a health-based standard, requiring treatment at Well 3.
- PFAS sample at Well 4 triggered increased monitoring; treatment remains complex and costly.

## **Major Capital Projects Identified**

- Highway 118 pipeline relocation (~\$1.7M).
- 571 Zone reservoir replacement/expansion to increase storage from ~8 hours to ~16 hours.
- Well 2 relocation cost: (~\$3M; ~2.5-year payback vs imported water).
- New Well 5 (~\$10M; ~8.5-year payback vs imported water).
- Balcom Canyon reservoir rehab (~\$1M now vs \$2–3M if deferred).

## **Public Concerns Raised**

- Members of the audience voiced their concerns that with the inability to offset increased costs with grant money or by other means will directly impact residents and whether farmers can continue to farm at a profitable rate.
- The comment was made that if farmers had to plow under their crops or orchards, they would no longer be buying water, which would negatively affect the revenues for WWD19.
- Former WWD19 Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Member stated that historical reserves nearly \$2.4M under prior leadership.
- Concerns regarding county overhead allocations (HR, IT, safety, litigation) were brought up.

- Requests for transparent financial review were mentioned as well.
- Calls for alternative rate structures and aggressive pursuit of grants (including Prop 4 funding).

Discussion became tense at times. In one instance, a resident asked a CAC member to step back during a heated exchange. Chair Fulkerson and Israel Rodriguez restored order and reiterated the goal of constructive dialogue.

Staff committed to:

- Hosting a financial and grant review session with county accountants and residents.
- Continuing weekly water quality reporting.
- Developing a five-year operational and capital plan incorporating grant strategies.

## **16. Review of 2025 and Setting of 2026 Goals and Objectives**

Due to the length of Water District 19 discussion, the only item that MAC Members were able to discuss was changing the frequency of the MAC meetings from quarterly to every other month. Field Representative Israel Rodriguez presented a potential 2026 meeting calendar of what the schedule would look like if the MAC wanted to make the change to having meetings every other month.

- Discussion took place and a motion was made by Jack Foss to accept the new 2026 calendar reflecting that meetings would now take place every other month.
- Further discussion took place regarding the starting time, and a request was made to change the starting time from 7:00 PM to 6:00 PM.
- Motion was amended to adopt the new 2026 calendar with meetings now taking place every other month, with a new meeting start time of 6:00 PM. The amended motion was seconded by Patty Martiniez. The Motion passed unanimously.

## **CLOSING**

### **15. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Jack Foss, seconded by Tyler Cobb.

The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bob Fulkerson adjourned the meeting at 9:10 PM.

Next Somis MAC meeting: March 26, 2026 – Somis Elementary School, starting at 6:00 PM.