



# REGULAR MEETING

**JEFF GORELL**  
Supervisor, 2<sup>nd</sup> District

**ISRAEL RODRIGUEZ**  
Field Representative  
Supervisor Jeff Gorell

## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

- BOB FULKERSON, CHAIR
- TYLER COBB, VICE CHAIR
- JOHN W. (JACK) FOSS
- PATRICIA MARTINEZ
- KRISTA NOWAK
- ALTERNATE VACANCY

# MINUTES

## MARCH 26, 2026

## 6:00 PM

Municipal Advisory Council  
Somis, California

Somis Elementary School  
Multipurpose Room  
5268 North Street  
Somis, CA 93066

### WEB ACCESS

At: <https://ventura.org/somismac>  
MAC Calendar, Agenda, and Minutes

## **OPENING**

1. Call to Order.
  - Chair Called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
  
2. Roll Call.
  - Members present: Chair, Bob Fulkerson, Vice Chair, Tyler Cobb, Patty Martinez, Krista Nowak.
  - Quorum met.
  
3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.
  
4. Approval of the Minutes from the Somis Municipal Advisory Council held on January 29, 2026.
  - Motion to approve the minutes made by, Patricia Martinez, seconded, Krista Nowak. Motion passes unanimously.
  
5. Agenda Review:
  - No changes to the agenda.
  
6. Consent Agenda Items (a. through c.)
  - Motion to approve the Consent Items made by Krista Nowak, seconded, Jack Foss. Motion passes unanimously.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Consent Agenda items are routine and non-controversial. Items are reviewed and approved together by the Council as recommended and without discussion, unless an item is pulled for separate action by the Board on the Regular Agenda. Consent items are heard at the Council's discretion and may be heard at any time during the meeting.**

- a. **California Highway Patrol Safety Report:** *The CHP Safety Report is provided as part of the Final Agenda Packet. **RECEIVE AND FILE***
- b. **Ventura County Fire Department:** *The VCFD report was provided verbally at the meeting by Deputy Fire Chief Chuck Sherry. His report included the following:*
  - Fire Chief Dustin Gardner announced the appointment of Deputy Fire Chief Chuck Sherry, replacing retired Deputy Chief Chad Cook.

- Rattlesnake Safety: Ventura County has experienced four rattlesnake bites recently. One incident resulted in the death of a 36-year-old woman in the Wildwood area. Residents were encouraged to remain vigilant while hiking and recreating outdoors.
- Mountain Fire Independent Review: CAL FIRE has been selected to conduct an independent review of the Falcon Fire and Mountain Fire events. Investigators have completed field work and are preparing a final report. The review will examine wildfire suppression and mop-up procedures and compare them with the best practices statewide.
- Training Center Improvements: Two new burn buildings have been completed at the Camarillo Training Center. Facilities will support advanced firefighter training, including simulated lithium-ion battery and petroleum fires.
- Service Enhancements: Ladder Truck 29 will be added in Santa Paula. The additional ladder truck resources will improve regional response times, including service to Somis.
- Mountain Fire Cause: The Chief explained that: The Mountain Fire reignited from heat trapped within the rim of a tractor involved in the earlier Falcon Fire. Burned rubber around the wheel insulated hot material for several days until strong Santa Ana winds later reignited surrounding vegetation.
- Zone Zero Update: Zone Zero requirements remain a State mandate. New construction must comply. Existing properties are expected to see implementation over the next one to two years. Current focus remains education and voluntary compliance.
- Vegetation Concerns: Residents raised concerns regarding vegetation and fire hazards on Union Pacific Railroad property. Fire Department staff committed to reviewing the site with local stations and determining whether vegetation qualifies for enforcement under existing fire codes.

**c. Update Ventura County Sheriff Department:** The Sheriff's Safety Report Safety Report was not provided at the meeting. The consent agenda was approved without the Sheriff report being available.

**7. Public Comments:**

- Speaker: Kathy Janowski inquired about the parcel adjacent AgRx/Fish Koi property that was purchased in 2023 by the same developer associated with the current farmworker housing project. Specifically wanted to know if there were any plans to develop another farmworker housing or senior housing unit on that parcel. MAC Members Bob Fulkerson and Tyler Cobb stated no development application ever submitted for a farm worker housing project.

- Speaker: Tressa spoke on BESS, the alternative revenue source and renewable energy project. She referenced the Moss Landing battery fire and community safety. “It’s really not about helping farmers.” People need to be aware of the hazards of Bess projects and threats to the environment. It’s important that residents stay informed and for the Supervisor to know that the unincorporated residents in Somis are paying attention to this subject.

**8. Office of Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorell’s Comments – Brief announcements and report on County activities.**

- Homelessness: Ventura County homelessness has declined 28% since 2023. This marks the first sustained countywide reduction in homelessness across all ten cities.
- County Government Reform: Supervisor Gorell highlighted efforts to improve county services by simplifying permitting processes, creating permit navigators and ombudsman services. Finally, we are improving transparency and project tracking.
- Mountain Fire Recovery: The first rebuilt home following the Mountain Fire has been completed in Somis. One of the homeowners who lost their home in the Mountain Fire had lost insurance shortly before the fire. In an effort to help the family, County staff assisted with SBA loans, fundraising, and recovery resources. In addition, we have five families that are expected to return to rebuilt homes soon highlighting that the system is working.
- Water District 19: A proposed 11.9% water rate increase was halted after residents successfully submitted sufficient protest signatures under Proposition 218. Supervisor Gorell emphasized the importance of transparency, community engagement, and exploring grants and alternative funding sources before future rate adjustments.
- Supervisor Gorell announced that: Somis School Superintendent Dr. Jesus Vaca will be honored as a community leader in education at the upcoming District 2 Leadership Awards.

**9. Council Comments**

- Chair, Bob Fulkerson: No Comments  
Vice Chair, Tyer Cobb: No Comments
- Krista Nowak: No Comments
- Jack Foss: No Comments
- Patty Martinez: Brought up the waterline pressure issue that is not sufficient enough put out a fire at Somis Ranch.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

**Regular Agenda items are heard at the Council's discretion and may be heard at any time during the meeting. (Continue to the Next page for the items under the Regular Agenda).**

### **14) Water Works District 19 (WWD19) Update:**

Water Works District 19 received sufficient protest letters to stop the 11.9% rate increase. Director of Public Works Agency Gregg Strakaluse and representatives from Ventura County Public Works provided the following update.

Current Status of WWD19:

- All three wells are currently operational.
- Imported water remains significantly more expensive than local groundwater.
- Staff are reviewing efficiencies to reduce operating costs.
- Cost Saving Measures

Potential cost saving measures discussed included:

- Transitioning to paperless billing, saving approximately \$16,000 annually.
- Reviewing Southern California Edison rate structures.
- Exploring opportunities for reduced electricity costs.
- Infrastructure Challenges

Public Works Staff identified the following issues:

- Need for manganese treatment systems to meet new state regulations.
- Aging infrastructure requires replacement.
- Future generator replacement needs.
- Low customer density increasing per-customer operating costs.
- Capital Improvement Planning

Public Works is preparing:

- A comprehensive capital improvement plan.
- Long-term infrastructure replacement schedules.
- Additional grant and funding opportunities.
- Community Engagement

Residents Suggested:

- Encouraging nighttime irrigation to reduce pumping costs.
- Expanding tank storage capacity.

- Increasing communication regarding water conservation efforts.

Public Works Staff agreed to continue evaluating these ideas and report back.

**15) Chuck Sandlin – Update on 3250 Somis Road:**

Charles Sandlin provided a project overview on operations located at 3250 Somis Road, (formerly, AGRX building). His project overview included the following:

- Site improvements have been completed.
- The facility will serve as overnight parking and charging for approximately 24 food trucks.
- No food preparation or public food service will occur onsite.
- Trucks will park overnight and operate elsewhere during business hours.

Residents brought up the following concerns:

- Visual appearance of the site.
- Traffic impacts. Ag/RX traffic data showed an average of 10 trucks per hour. The new use would average one truck per hour for a 90% traffic reduction.
- Esper Peterson stated he is closing the easement on his property to traffic within the next 60 days and people who live in the area will have to use Worth Way.
- Landscaping and beautification: Charles Sandlin stated that the county has not allowed any improvements due to its historic background.
- There was a question concerning the railroad property. Charles stated that he is not allowed to touch the railroad property.

The MAC requested the applicant develop a landscaping and beautification plan, including Landscaping, Fencing, Building improvements, Site cleanup measures and brought before the MAC for review before being forwarded to Supervisor Gorell and the Board of Supervisors with MAC recommendations.

Motion made Tyler Cobb have Charles Sandlin bring a landscaping plan forward to the Somis MAC for review and suggestions. The motion was seconded by Jack Foss. The motion passed unanimously.

**15) Dr. Vaca: Student Conducted a Tour of School Programs (Time Certain: 7:30 PM):**

Dr. Vaca hosted a guided tour of the campus, highlighting several award-winning programs and student-led initiatives.

## **CLOSING**

**16) Adjournment:** Chair Fulkerson adjourned the meeting at 7:30 PM so that Dr. Vaca could conduct a tour of the school for residents and visitors.

The next Somis Municipal Advisory Council meeting, May 28, 2026, at Somis Elementary School, 5268 North Street, Somis, CA 93066.