



REGULAR MEETING

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

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

JEFF GORELL

Supervisor, 2nd District

ISRAEL RODRIGUEZ

Field Representative
Supervisor Jeff Gorell

AGENDA

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

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

LEGAL NOTICES

Persons who require accommodation for any audio, visual, language, or other disability to review an agenda or to participate in a meeting of the Somis Municipal Advisory Council per the American Disabilities Act (ADA), may obtain assistance by requesting such accommodation by calling (805) 214-2510 or e-mailing Israel.Rodriguez@ventura.org. Any such request for accommodation should be made at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting for which assistance is requested.

All agenda reports and supporting data, including those filed in accordance with Government Code Section 54957.5 (b) (1) and (2) are available from Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorell's office at 2100 E Thousand Oaks Blvd, Suite E, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362. The same materials will be available and attached with each associated agenda item, when received, at the following website: <https://ventura.org/somismac>

Documents including staff materials, comment emails and letters, photos, etc., distributed to the Somis Municipal Advisory Council regarding any agenda item during an open session or after the meeting concluded, are posted online and made available for public inspection at <https://ventura.org/somismac>

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment is an opportunity for members of the public to participate in meetings by addressing the Somis Municipal Advisory Council in connection with one or more agenda or non-agenda items. Public comments by a member of the public at a single meeting are limited to a cumulative total of five minutes at such meeting unless the time allotment is increased or decreased by the Chair depending on the number of speakers. The public comment period during the opening part of the meeting to address non-agenda items is limited to 30 minutes total for all speakers; this 30-minute limit does not apply to items on the agenda.

To maintain a public meeting environment conducive and welcoming to receiving public comments from all members of the public, the audience is discouraged from engaging in displays of support or opposition to staff reports or public comments, including clapping, yelling, booing, hissing or cheering, that may create a disruptive environment for members of the public wishing to participate. Any person who disrupts or impedes the orderly conduct of a meeting will be instructed to cease the disruptive conduct. Failure to do so may result in that person being removed from the meeting.

Members of the public who would like to augment their comments with visual or audio presentations must submit their materials to Israel.Rodriguez@ventura.org for review at least 48 hours before the meeting. The review will be conducted to determine only whether the materials are on matters within the jurisdiction of the Municipal Advisory Council, which would be disruptive of the meeting, or would foster illegality, such as identity theft. If it is determined that materials are about matters not within the Municipal Advisory Council's jurisdiction, or would be disruptive of the meeting, or would foster illegality, use of County-provided equipment will not be allowed.

Email or Mail Public Comment in Advance of the Meeting

If you wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item by email or mail, please submit your comment by 12:00 p.m. on the day prior to the meeting. Indicate in the Subject Line the Agenda item number (e.g., Item No. 9) on which you are commenting. Your email or written comment will be distributed to the Municipal Advisory Council and placed on the item's record for the minutes of the meeting. Public Comments submitted in writing are public records and subject to disclosure. An unredacted version is made available when records are requested by a Public Records Act request. Please do not submit personal contact information if you do not want it to be made public. Please submit your comment to Israel.Rodriguez@ventura.org or mail to:

Somis Municipal Advisory Council
Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorell
2100 E Thousand Oaks Blvd Suite E
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

In-Person Public Comment

If you would like to provide a verbal comment **in person** during the meeting, upon arrival at the meeting location, check in with staff and complete a comment card. When your name is called for public comment, please proceed to the podium. If you do not wish to pre-register but would like to provide in-person comments at the meeting, you must check in with the staff prior to the agenda item being called.

OPENING

1. Call to Order.
2. Roll Call.
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.

5. Agenda Review
6. Consent Agenda Items (a. through c.)

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.*
 - b. **Ventura County Fire Department:** *The Ventura County Fire Department Safety Report is provided as part of the Final Agenda Packet.*
 - c. **Update Ventura County Sheriff Department:** *The Sheriff's Safety Report Safety Report will be provided verbally at the MAC meeting.*
7. Public Comments – Citizen presentations regarding Somis Municipal Advisory Council related matters NOT appearing on this agenda. (See Guidelines above).
 8. Office of Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorell's Comments – Brief announcements and report on County activities.
 9. Council Comments – Comments by Council members on matters they deem appropriate. A Council member may ask a question for clarification, make a brief announcement, or make a brief report on his or her own activities. A Council member may also provide a reference to staff or other resources for information, or request staff to report back to the body at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter. The Council may also direct staff to place a matter of business on the future agenda.

(Continued to the next page)

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 to discuss steps going forward.

15) Chuck Sandlin – Update on 3250 Somis Road:

Charles Sandlin, to provide an update on operations located at 3250 Somis Road, (formerly, AGRX building) and answer any questions the public may have on this project. He is available to discuss the current status and future plans for the business.

16) Presentation by Dr. Vaca: Student Video and Tour of School Programs (Time Certain: 7:30 PM):

Dr. Vaca, along with teachers and students, will present a video on the *Future of Agriculture in Somis*, created from a student perspective and filmed and edited by Somis students.

Following the presentation, Dr. Vaca will host a guided tour of the campus, highlighting several award-winning programs and student-led initiatives, including:

- **Student-Run Agricultural Programs**
 - Computer-assisted farm (sponsored by MARS Farms)
 - Hydroponic indoor farm
 - Somis Nature Garden
- **High-Tech Media Studios**
 - Sound booth
 - Green screen studio
 - Drone filming capabilities
- **STEM Lab**
 - Hands-on projects such as go-cart building, gaming/programming, and scientific experimentation and exploration.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend and experience the innovative programs at Somis Elementary School, which has become a highly regarded educational model within Ventura County and across California.

CLOSING

15) Adjournment of the Somis Municipal Advisory Council meeting to the next meeting, May 28, 2026, at Somis Elementary School, 5268 North Street, Somis, CA 93066.



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



MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

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

**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**

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.



Website: VCFD.org
Twitter: [@VCFD](https://twitter.com/VCFD)
Facebook: [@VenturaCountyFire](https://www.facebook.com/TheVenturaCountyFire)
Instagram: [@VenturaCountyFire](https://www.instagram.com/VenturaCountyFire)

Contact: **Andy VanSciver** or **Andrew Dowd**
Public Information Officers
Phone: **(805) 389-9746**
Email: PIOFire@ventura.org

March 3, 2026

Attn: Supervisor Jeff Gorell and Municipal Advisory Committees

Independent Operational Review

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has initiated an independent review of Ventura County Fire Department (VCFD) operations related to the wildfire event that preceded and ultimately led to the Mountain Fire. The review is being led by CAL FIRE Southern Region Chief Mike van Loben Sels and CAL FIRE San Diego Unit and County Fire Chief Tony Mecham — both seasoned fire service leaders with extensive incident management experience at the state and national levels. This review underscores VCFD's commitment to transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement in wildfire response operations.

Regional Interagency Training and Preparedness

Over the past month, VCFD firefighters have strengthened regional preparedness through joint training exercises with Ventura City Fire, Oxnard City Fire, and Los Angeles County Fire Department. Utilizing VCFD's new state-of-the-art training facility, crews conducted simulated structure fire scenarios that included mayday operations and firefighter rescue. These multi-agency drills enhance interoperability, reinforce mutual trust, and ensure seamless operational coordination during complex emergencies across jurisdictional boundaries.

Expansion of Fire Suppression Resources – Truck Company Deployment

In May, VCFD will place a new Truck Company into service in the Santa Clara River Valley, initially assigned to Fire Station 27 and later relocating to Fire Station 29 upon its opening later this year. This deployment is guided by a comprehensive Standards of Cover study conducted in partnership with Citigate, which evaluated system performance and identified opportunities to improve response times and service delivery. The addition of this truck company strengthens emergency response capacity in a growing service area and reflects data-driven resource planning.

Sincerely,

Andy VanSciver
Firefighter/Public Information Officer



To: Supervisor Gorell's office

CHP MOORPARK'S DISTRICT 2 MAC TALKING POINTS:

- **Fatal Traffic Crash on SR-23 Claims Two Lives.**

CHP Moorpark Area investigated a fatality crash on SR-23 in Moorpark that resulted in two deaths. A pickup truck was traveling at a high rate of speed and lost control while driving southbound on SR-23. The vehicle drove up an embankment and went over the guardrail, landing on the northbound lanes directly in the path of an oncoming sedan. The crash resulted in the deaths of the passenger in the pickup and the driver of the sedan.

This crash serves as a reminder that driving in the far-left lane on a multi-lane freeway places motorists closest to oncoming traffic and potential debris or projectiles that may cross over the center divider or guardrail. Additionally, wrong way drivers are often traveling in the far-left lane because they believe it is the right-hand lane on their side of the roadway or they are looking for an exit, which are typically on the right. When possible, motorists should avoid traveling in the left lane except when passing.

- **Distracted Driving Awareness Month.**

April is National Distracted Driver Awareness month and provides an opportunity to refocus on the choices we make while behind the wheel. Distracted driving remains a leading factor in preventable crashes. CHP officers will be conducting heightened enforcement efforts throughout the area to identify and stop drivers who are using electronic devices or are otherwise distracted while driving.

- **CHP Recruiting Opportunities.**

The California Highway Patrol continues to hire officers to help make California's roadways safer. If you or someone you know is interested in joining the CHP, visit www.betheCHP1000.com for more information and to speak with a local recruiter. The CHP is also hiring to for a variety of non-uniform positions. For more details and applications please visit www.chp.ca.gov.

- We appreciate the community's continued partnership in helping keep Ventura County's roadways safe. Follow CHP Moorpark on social media for traffic updates, sig alerts, evacuation notices, roadway closures, and general information about what the CHP activity in your area.

Twitter: @CHPMoorpark
Facebook: @CHP-Moorpark
Instagram: @CHPMoorpark

Contact: **Officer Ryan Ayers**
Public Information Officer

Phone: **(805) 553-0800**
Email: **rayers@chp.ca.gov**

Site Map
3250 Somis Road Presentation
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