



REGULAR MEETING

JEFF GORELL
Supervisor, 2nd 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
- DEBORAH FANEROS,
ALTERNATE

FINAL AGENDA

JUNE 18, 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 & Swearing in of Alternate Deborah Faneros
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 March 26, 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. **Ventura County Fire Department:** Please see the attached June Safety Report from the *Ventura County Fire Department*. **RECOMMEND RECEIVE AND FILE.**
 - b. **Update Ventura County Sheriff Department:** *The Sheriff's Safety Report Safety Report will be provided at the MAC Meeting.*
 - c. **Tressa Letter, March 26, 2026:** *See attached letter from Tressa on Battery Energy Storage (BES).* **RECOMMEND RECEIVE AND FILE.**
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

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10) Korrine Bell, Agriculture Commissioner – State of Agriculture in Ventura County

Agriculture Commissioner, Korinne Bell, to speak on the state of agriculture its Ventura County. Topics include market conditions, regularity changes, challenges and the impact technology is having on industry.

11) Steve Lazenby, CERT Program Director:

Steve, Lazenby the Program Director of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will provide a presentation on CERT's mission, program elements and what it takes for communities to establish local CERT program.

CLOSING

12) Adjournment of the Somis Municipal Advisory Council meeting to the next meeting, September 10, 2026, at Somis Elementary School, 5268 North Street, Somis, CA 93066.



REGULAR MEETING

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Supervisor, 2nd District

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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

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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

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- 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

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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.



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

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

June 11, 2026

Attn: Supervisor Jeff Gorell and Municipal Advisory Committees

New Truck 29 Now In Service:

VCFD placed new Truck 29 into service on May 27th – increasing our support coverage in Ventura County. Truck 29 is a 100-foot tractor-drawn aerial apparatus manufactured by Rosenbauer and equipped with specialized tools and equipment designed to support technical rescue operations and structure fire response throughout the region. Truck 29 will join Engine 29 at the new Santa Paula Fire station which is slated to open later in 2026.

Firefighters to conduct brush clearance inspections after June 1 deadline:

June 1 was the deadline for over 19,000 county residents to complete annual brush clearance and wildfire prevention requirements as part of our Fire Hazard Reduction Program (FHRP). Over the next few weeks, engine companies will be surveying their local response areas and conducting inspections on participating properties. This process allows our firefighters to increase situational awareness and preparation for wildfire incidents, as well as engage positively with the community to help promote wildfire safety and resilience.

Reminder: Academy 63 Graduation – June 18th:

VCFD is proud to announce the graduation of Academy 63 on June 18th, 1pm – 3pm at the Fire Training Complex in Camarillo. Our Firefighter Trainees will have completed 20 weeks of intensive training in firefighting, EMS, hazardous materials, urban search and rescue, and more. Please join us to honor their success and welcome them to Ventura County Fire Department.

New Fire Training Complex Open House June 24th

VCFD is hosting an open house June 24th at 9am to showcase three new facilities at our Fire Training Complex in Camarillo. The new facilities include two state-of-the-art burn buildings for live fire training, as well as an updated “Ladder Land” area for training with ground and aerial ladders. The new burn buildings allow firefighters to train on interior fire attack, search and rescue operations, firefighter mayday and rapid intervention, hose deployment, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) training, and command operations. We invite you to attend and see firsthand how these training solutions are helping VCFD prepare for all types of emergency responses.

Wildfire Prevention Day at Reagan Library – June 25th

The Reagan Library is hosting its annual wildfire prevention and preparation event on Thursday, June 25th from 10am to 1pm. VCFD is providing a static display that highlights our new Type 3 engines and members of our hand crew, as well as a water-drop demonstration by one of our Firehawk helicopters. Numerous community partners will also be at the event to provide attendees with other wildfire safety information and resources. We are grateful for our partnership with the Reagan Library and their desire to promote wildfire safety and resilience here in our community.

SOMIS MAC / March 26, 2026

It's always great seeing the community here...

For the purpose of time, I am going to read my comment

This a follow up to the July 2025 Somis MAC meeting. BES (Battery Energy Storage) that was presented as an alternative income resource for Farmers. There were potential sites presented for Somis.

Questions and concerns were raised about BES at that meeting. However, those questions and concerns were not recorded in the Minutes. So, I am raising them here today.

We have not received an update on that presentation. It is important to know there is another BES Development planned for the backyard of Somis in **Moorpark**. VC Pending Projects PL 25-0085 on Los Angeles Ave. **And**, it states it would be monitored "remotely."

The community needs to made aware of the hazards of BES FIRE. Look up communities that have stopped BES. The Moorpark City Council even voted against it.

Inform yourselves on the Moss Landing BES fire and its' effect on that community.

Reference The California Insider interview with physicist Dr. Michael Hogan. He talks about BES and its' threat to the environment and agricultural soils.

Strong winds usually blow east to west here. A BES fire explosion due east of Somis could be catastrophic to our community.

I am highlighting this concern because BES is part of the Ventura County's "Energy Roadmap," per the planning director.

Review the Planning Director 's "Use Equivalancy Determination" letter, explaining that BES land use was equivalent to energy production from renewable sources" and therefore would be an allowed use in land zoned Open Space, Agriculture Exclusive – Rural Agriculture. Did the Board of Supervisors approve this? It isn't really about helping farmers, it's about helping "state mandates' and *money*.

At some point, there will be hearings before the Planning Commission and Supervisors on the "Energy Roadmap," update so it is important to stay informed on these matters.

The county leadership needs to know unincorporated communities like Somis are paying attention to their actions and how they affect us. Why? Because this is OUR home and we need to protect it.

Tressa