

Making the Sweetwater Valley the best place to live.

P.O. Box 232, Bonita, CA 91908 www.sweetwatervalleyca.org



SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION
MEETING HELD AT THE BONITA MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING
February 4, 2026

Directors Present: President Felix Felix, Vice President Judy Tieber, Treasurer Stephen Stonehouse, Mike Clowers, Sharon Coleman, Richard Scott, Secretary Liz Stonehouse, and Mike Parnell.

Members Present: Bill Coleman, Jim Groth, AnaRosa Munoz (Sweetwater Women's Club), Susan Heavilin, Dennise Elliott, Steven Elliott, Elizabeth Cox, and Wendy Wilson-Gibson (Bonita Museum & Cultural Center).

Guests Present: Captain Mike Smith, Ardyel Lim, Amanda Fredeluces, Ernesto Castaneda, and Marianne Delatorre.

- 1. Call to Order:** 6:35 PM by President Felix Felix at the Bonita-Sunnyside Library Community Room.
- 2. Special welcome:** a welcome greeting was provided to our members, guests, representatives of our elected officials, and to those contemplating joining the SVCA.
- 3. Attendance:** Members were reminded to sign in for attendance record accuracy.
- 4. Approval of Jan. 7, 2026 Minutes:** Mike Parnell motioned to approve: Judy Tieber seconded. Passed.

5. Treasurer's Report: Stephen Stonehouse provided the February Treasurer's report.

\$4,010.54 Previous balance

-\$45.00 PayPal to Mail Chimp

-\$210.00 Check # 871 Paid to Keep It Growing Web Services

\$3755.54 Ending balance

6. Bonita Fire Department: Deputy Chief Mike Smith for Chief Sims mentioned the Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District performance for December 2025, the District achieved approximately 97% compliance with Ambulance Transport System (ATS) response standards, reflecting strong and reliable emergency medical services, including ALS responses and mutual aid. Mike Smith has been promoted to Deputy Chief and has been selected as the District's next Fire Chief, effective July 1. Captain Jason Oosterbaan has become a fire trainer. Personnel updates included a report that the District's new firefighter hire is performing well and is preparing for his first quarter probationary examination scheduled for next month. The District also announced the promotion of engineer Josh Krimston to Fire Captain. Josh Krimstone has served the District since 2001 and will also assume the role of Fire Marshal. Federal funding awarded through the THUD Appropriations Bill requested by Juan Vargas has gone through. The funding will support the purchase of a new fire engine. Chief Sims and Deputy Chief Smith will travel to Washington, D.C. later this month to meet with Congressman Vargas's staff and other partners to support the continued federal advocacy and future funding opportunities.

7. CHP/Sheriff: Not present.

8. Elected Officials Representatives Reports:

A. Ardyel Lim mentioned the following report: SB 58 passed the Senate 39 to 0. It updates California hydrogen sulfide air quality standards that affect the Tijuana River Valley and the Salton Sea. It's now headed to the Assembly awaiting committee assignment. SB 300 passed the Senate 30 to 0. It builds on SB 243, mandates tighter age verification and measures to prevent minors exposed to sexually explicit content via AI chat bots. It is now headed to the Assembly.

SB 866 requires large AI data centers to pay for the grid infrastructure costs they use to protect Californians from higher utility bills. SB 887 requires environmental review and enforces strict standards for data centers on clean energy, water use, infrastructure costs, and enhanced community benefits. SB 867 imposes a four year moratorium on the sale and manufacture of toys with AI chat bot capabilities for children. Extends commissary price protections to private detention facilities by prohibiting markups exceeding 35% above vendor cost; SB 903 prohibits offering of advertising therapy/psychotherapy by unlicensed individuals or companies (including AI), limits AI to supervised supportive roles, requires confidentiality of therapy records, and sets penalties up to \$10,00.

If you have any additional questions, please reach out via email, website, or by calling the Senator's San Diego County office and I'd be happy to speak with you more. Thank you.

Contact: Ardyel Lim, District Representative, Office of State Senator Steve Padilla, District 18, Ardyel.Lim@sen.ca.gov.

Office of State Senator Stephen C. Padilla, 18th District

Offices: San Diego County (619) 409-7690,
Sacramento (916) 651-4018, Imperial County (760) 335-3442.

B. Amanda Fredeluces, Chief of Staff for John McCann reported the following: I'm pleased to share a brief update on what's been happening around our city and what we can look forward to in the coming weeks. Last month, we celebrated the groundbreaking of Palomar Point, which will provide permanent supportive housing for some of our most vulnerable residents. This project represents an important step forward in the City's efforts to address housing needs and ensure that everyone in Chula Vista has access to a safe and stable place to live. Looking ahead, we have several opportunities this month to stay connected and engaged with our community. On Wednesday, February 18, the Chula Vista Police Department will host Coffee with a Cop at the Chick-fil-A on Broadway from 8:30 to 10 AM.. It's a great chance for residents to meet officers, ask questions, and build stronger relationships with our public safety team. Then, on Saturday, February 28, Mayor McCann will co-host a Senior Fraud Awareness Session with District Attorney Summer Stephan at The

Haddington in Cota Vera, from 8 to 10 AM. This event will focus on protecting our seniors from scams and fraudulent activity — a growing concern in communities across the county.

I also know that many residents have questions about the horse arena at Rohr Park. I want to emphasize that Mayor McCann strongly supports keeping the arena in the park and as part of the Rohr Park Master Plan. The City's master planning process takes up to a year, and at this stage, nothing has been finalized or voted on by City Council. Now is the time for the community to share feedback, ideas, and concerns. Mayor McCann welcomes your input — you can email the Mayor's Office directly with any comments you'd like to share as this process moves forward.

C. Ernesto Castenada, Field Rep. for Assemblymember David Alvarez reported the following: Left fact sheets concerning three assembly bills. AB 35 seeks to exempt Proposition 4 (Climate Bond) funding from the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), enabling funds to be deployed more quickly and efficiently and ensuring that protracted administrative processes do not hold up vital projects.

AB 664 authorizes Southwestern College to offer up to four carefully targeted, workforce-aligned bachelor's degree programs: Allied Health Education and Leadership, Forensic Studies, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), and Interaction Design. The bill includes safeguards to prevent duplication of existing university programs, requires independent evaluation, establishes a statutory program cap, and sunsets in 2035—preserving the intent of the California Master Plan for Higher Education while addressing real-world access and capacity constraints.

Lastly, AB 1204 introduces essential reforms to California's Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) aimed at addressing the diverse needs of vulnerable student populations, while acknowledging regional cost disparities and inflationary pressures. This legislation proposes significant changes, including the inclusion of homeless students in funding counts, a guaranteed annual inflation adjustment for base grants, and regional cost adjustments for housing and labor by 2030.

D. Marianne Delatorre, Senior Community Rep. for SD County District 1 Supervisor, Paloma Aguirre reported the following:

Judy inquired if the \$200K funding for the San Miguel Creek Floodplain Study was approved at the last SD County Supervisor Hearing. Marianne stated that the San Miguel Study was not approved, but a \$15 million dollar grant was approved for the Tijuana River as it was evaluated as having a higher priority score.

E. Elizabeth Cox, South Bay Water Board Director, Division 5 reported the following:

It is the start of the annual High School Photography Contest, "Water And the World Around Us". The Board approved \$25 Million for unincorporated infrastructure, \$200,000 for Lang Avenue/Colbert (Spring Valley), \$750,000 for drainage (Spring Valley), \$10 Million for Tumontis, \$2.5 Million for air-quality improvements on Saturn Boulevard.

Central Wheeler Tank is under construction and will be online later this year to improve pressure for over 180 properties. These properties will require the installation of pressure regulators. The Sweetwater Reservoir is undergoing an Aeration and Destratification project to reduce organic matter turnover supported by a \$1.5 Million Bureau of Reclamation grant.

Sweetwater selected Carollo in December for a PFAS pilot using Rapid Small-Scale Column Testing (RSSCT) to evaluate its efficacy with Best Available Technologies (BAT) like reverse osmosis, granular activated charcoal, and ion exchange. PFAS reached the Notification Level 4 PPT. The Response Level is 40 PPT.

New Sweetwater rates took effect Jan 1, with a 3.25 increase (vs planned 6.5%) a water transfer completed in December moved water from Loveland to Sweetwater Reservoir (-21% below to 68% full). Colorado River negotiations remained ongoing with a federal target of Feb. 14 2026 for agreement.

9. Continuing Business:

A. SVCA Website Redesign & Maintenance Bid Selection Review

Update: Seven vendors responded to solicited bids: Grwth Squad, Lion

File Solutions, Keep It Growing, Boost Yr Style, eSEO Space, Freshy Sites and MRB Media. After conducting an evaluation scoring matrix, KIG, Boost Yr Style, and eSEO Space came out as best proposals for cost, design, and maintenance. Evaluation matrix scored Freshy and MRB highest for credentials (endorsements, references, SOQs) with design costs at \$18,250 (Freshy) and \$25,000 (MRB). However, it was identified they had hidden monthly fees (licensing, regulatory) reducing transparency: selected mid-range KIG as current vendor, Boost Yr Style and eSEO Space for CRM/social media integration. We are coordinating a planned on-site vendor presentation and Q&A near the end of February 2026. The public is invited.

10. New Business:

A. Approval to Participate in Warmth with Compassion-Coat and Blanket Drive: Approval to participate in Warmth with Compassion-Coat and Blanket Drive to be held at our March 4, 2026 SVCA meeting. President Felix presented a flyer on the multi-laser projector. Vice President Judy asked to have it distributed to our members and put on the Website. She also offered to pick up items if asked from members who could not attend the next meeting. Judy made the motion to continue the drive. Liz seconded. Passed.

11. Community Forum:

A. SCPG Chair Felix Felix updates: Supervisor Paloma Aguirre came to our Planning Group meeting and held a forum for our community. There was proactive engagement as several issues were discussed that pertain to our area. Marianne Delatorre introduced herself as the new liaison to Supervisor Aguirre and that she would be attending our SVCA meetings.

B. Traffic and Roads: Mike Clowers mentioned that the TAC meeting this Friday will not include anything on the agenda for our community.

C. SVCA Membership: Judy noted that we have 68 members: 28 gold and 40 paid.

12. Other Announcements & Items not on the Agenda:

A. Jim Groth requested a letter to Supervisor Aguirre's office to provide more Sheriff coverage for our area. There needs to be more coordination between the Sheriff's Department and the CHP.

B. Anna Rose Munoz from the Women's Club wanted to be included in the agenda roll.

13. Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Stonehouse, Secretary

Mission Statement: The Sweetwater Valley Civic Association (SVCA) fosters and promotes community spirit and civic pride through proactive engagement with the County, local elected and appointed officials, law enforcement, emergency first responders, and community groups/organizations with the goal of improving the quality of life within the Sweetwater Valley community.