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P.O. Box 232, Bonita, CA 91908 [www.sweetwatervalleyca.org](http://www.sweetwatervalleyca.org)

SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
MEETING HELD AT THE SWEETWATER COMMUNITY CHURCH  
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING  
November 5, 2025

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

**Members Present:** Tom Pocklington, Jim Woodford, Bill Coleman, Dennise Elliott, Steven Elliott, Christine Huges, Elizabeth Cox, Jim Woodford.

**Guest Present:** Fire Chief Mike Sims and Captain Michael Smith from Bonita-Sunnyside Fire District, Ernesto Castaneda from David Alvarez's office.

- 1. Call to Order:** 6:30 PM by President Felix Felix at the Sweetwater Community Church.
- Please be sure to sign in, so our attendance records are accurate.
- 3. Approval of minutes:** Steve Stonehouse motioned to approve: Liz Stonehouse seconded. Passed
- 4. Special welcome:** to our members, guests, representatives of our elected officials, and to those who might be contemplating joining the SVCA: WELCOME.
- 5. Treasurer's Report:** Stephen Stonehouse provided the November Treasurer's report.

\$4765.59 previous balance  
-\$45.00 Paypal to Mail Chimp  
-\$285.00 Ck 866 Paid to Keep It Growing Monthly Web Fee.  
\$4435.59 ending balance

## **6. Captain Michael Smith: Bonita Sunnyside Fire Protection District – Monthly Update**

First, I'm pleased to share that our ambulance compliance remains at 99%. This exceeds the system's minimum requirements and currently ranks among the highest in the region — a reflection of the commitment and coordination between our departments.

We have also completed our portion of the vegetation mitigation project along Proctor Valley Road. Our crews cleared brush from the roadside up to the fence line bordering the protected habitat area managed by Fish and Wildlife. This work helps improve visibility, access, and fire safety for both the community and the adjacent wildland interface.

On the personnel side, we've concluded our firefighter/paramedic hiring process and have extended one conditional job offer. We're hopeful to have our new team member trained and on the floor by the end of the month.

We were also fortunate to **receive a grant from the San Diego Regional Fire Foundation** to purchase new **thermal imaging cameras**. These upgraded devices provide a significant improvement in technology and safety, allowing our firefighters to better locate victims, identify hidden fire, and operate more effectively in low-visibility conditions. We're extremely grateful for the Foundation's continued support of local fire agencies.

And lastly, Captain Smith has begun a two-month job-shadowing assignment with Chief Sims. As many of you know, Chief Sims will be retiring at the end of June, and our District is currently working through the transition and selection process for his replacement.

**CHP** Lieutenant Lane reported: We now have dedicated officers for Bonita. In the last month, there were 23 crashes, 7 with injuries and 7 DUI arrests. The areas where there is concern include: Sunnyside Elementary, Valley Vista Elementary, Frisbie Street and Kenilworth.

Tom Pocklington asked about the tire dumping and was told to contact the dispatch center.

## **7. Elected Officials Representatives Reports:**

**Ardyel Lim from Senator Steve Padilla's Office:** submitted this report:

Sweetwater Valley Civic Association November 5, 2025, Meeting Governor Newsom signed 6 critical bills that were authored by Senator Padilla. These includes: • SB 57 – Data Center Tariffs - would protect CA ratepayers and the state’s climate goals from increased costs as more companied develop data centers to meeting the growing energy demands of AI. The bill authorizes the California Public Utilities **Commission to** assess cost shifts associated with new loads from data centers. • SB 243 – AI Consumer Chat-bots - would require operators to prevent addictive engagement patterns to help prevent users from becoming addicted to the platforms by reminding them that chatbots are AI-generated. • SB 302 – Tax Conformity - Aligns CA tax law with federal tax rules set in the IRA, allowing state level exclusion from gross income for certain clean energy tax credits and related payments. CA currently taxes these benefits. • SB 638 - Career Technical Education Programs - would establish the California Middle Class Pipeline Project, tasked with eliminating traditional barriers to career technical educational institutions and private industry to reimagine career technical education in the state to address regional disparities by directing resources to high-unemployment and low-income areas.

Outside of legislation, the Senator and his team have been meeting with constituents from various parts of the district to provide updates, hear their concerns, and share his priorities moving forward. • The Senator held back-to-back Coffee and Chat with the communities of Barrio Logan/Logan Heights area and in National City. He met with tons of constituents from these areas and nearby cities where he spoke with them individually and in group settings to discuss the community’s pressing concerns about federal actions, EV mandates, local city issues, Tijuana River Valley water pollution, and affordability. • He also held a Town Hall at the Mountain View Recreation Center and spoke with a great group of folks about his legislative priorities and local concerns. Even if the legislature won’t be back in session until next year, our office is still open for casework on state agencies/departments, hearing bill ideas, and certificate and letters of support requests. If you have any additional questions, please reach out via email, his website, or by calling the Senator’s San Diego County office and I’d be happy to speak with you more. Thank you everyone and have a great rest of your evening! Contact: Ardyel Lim, District Representative Office of State Senator Steve Padilla, District 18.

**Amanda Fredeluces from Mayor John McCan’s Office:** sent this report:

A couple weeks ago, the Chula Vista City Council unanimously approved the creation of the Filipino American Veterans Park, a first-of-its-kind park in the entire United States dedicated to honoring Filipino American veterans and their families. This is a historic milestone for Chula Vista and the nation, recognizing the sacrifices and service of Filipino American veterans who fought bravely alongside U.S. forces. Mayor John McCann led the effort from the very beginning—championing the idea, working closely with community leaders and veterans’ groups, and guiding the project through the city’s process to make this vision a reality.

The park will be located in the new communities of Otay Ranch, serving as both a tribute and a gathering place for future generations to celebrate Filipino American history and heritage.

The beloved Chula Vista Starlight Parade and Festival will once again light up Third Avenue on Saturday, December 6, beginning with festivities at 3 p.m. and the parade starting at 6 p.m. Thanks to Mayor McCann's leadership, the Starlight Parade was brought back after years of absence and has since become one of the city's most cherished annual traditions. Each year, the Mayor continues to spearhead efforts to organize and expand the event, ensuring it celebrates the best of our community—families, schools, cultural groups, and local heroes. Residents can look forward to a magical evening of floats, music, lights, and holiday spirit that truly captures what makes Chula Vista special.

Additionally, the City of Chula Vista is recognizing Kindness Week from November 8th – 15th. Throughout the month, there will be kindness-themed events taking place across the city and the region. For more information on activities and how to participate, please visit [TheKindnessClub](#).

Lastly, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the men and women who have served our country and continue to serve today. Many veterans have put their lives on the line to protect our freedom, and for that, we are deeply grateful.

**Genevieve Fong from Representative Juan Vargas' Office:** Was not in attendance.

**Ernesto Castenada from Assemblymember David Alveraz's Office:**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 13, 2025

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## **Landmark Chula Vista University Legislation Signed by the Governor**

Assemblymember David Alvarez (D-San Diego) announced that Assembly Bill 662 –The Chula Vista University Act – has been signed into law. AB 662 establishes the South County Higher Education Task Force, creating a collaborative body that will bring together the University of California, California State University, CA Community Colleges, the City of Chula Vista, Sweetwater Union High School District and other stakeholders to evaluate the governance models, funding mechanisms, and statutory changes required for creating a four-year public university in South San Diego County.

**“This legislation is about breaking cycles and building futures,” said Assemblymember Alvarez. “For too long, South County has been denied the opportunities that come with higher education access. AB 662 lays the groundwork to bring a world-class university to Chula Vista—fueling upward mobility, innovation, and economic strength for generations to come.”**

Chula Vista is the second-largest city in San Diego County, with a population exceeding 250,000, and the largest city in California without a public university offering baccalaureate degree programs. Nearly 600,000 residents in South County are without this access, an area that is commonly referred to as a “college desert.”

To address this disparity, the City of Chula Vista has taken proactive steps by initiating the development of a University Innovation District on over 383 acres of city-owned land. This ambitious project envisions a bi-national, multi-institutional hub for higher education and innovation that includes collaboration with the University of California (UC), California State University (CSU), and California Community Colleges (CCC) systems.

**“The City of Chula Vista is thrilled that Governor Newsom has signed AB 662 into law, marking a historic moment for our community and bringing us closer to a public university in South County,” said Mayor John McCann. “With this legislation, we can continue our work on the University Innovation District—expanding access to higher education, creating opportunities for local students, and strengthening South County’s future.”**

### **8. Continuing Business:**

A. Participate in Kindness Week Nov. 8 -15, Spread S’more Kindness Venue - Elizabeth Cox reported that the supplies had been received for graham crackers, Nutella, chocolate bars and marshmallow fluff. We also approved the purchase of mini-

water bottles. Liz volunteered tables, chairs and tablecloths. While Richard Scott offered his pop-up canopy. Judy Tieber, Mike Parnell, the Stonehouses and Felix donated their time to be part of the venue. Liz also reserved the courtyard between the Museum and the Library from 1 to 3PM.

B. Participate in the Starlight Parade - There was more discussion on the Starlight Parade. Judy said she could get her truck decorated in led lights, Christmas décor, banners, and have Miss Bonita and some other dignitary like Chief Sims ride in the back. Dennise and Steve Elliot had mentioned that they would lend us their battery powered generator for the lighting effects of the truck. Felix mentioned he could assist Judy in wiring the lights into the generator and decorate the truck.

C. SVCA President as a Guest Speaker for various local clubs, orgs and associations. President Felix Felix stated that he was meeting with The Rotary Club as a guest speaker and reached out to Parisa Hill from Bonita Mama's and would follow up with Optimist Club President Zack Widdes.

Tom mentioned that there was an open house at noon on Oxford Street on Saturday. It is a chance to talk to Supervisor Aguirre. The vacant lot next to Nector restaurant is being proposed as a two-story building. The plans are still in the works.

## **9. Community Forum:**

A. **SCPG Chair Felix Felix updates:** Planning Group was presented with the following:

1. Socially Equitable Cannabis Dispensory Program with special zoning to be located away from residential properties and schools in unincorporated areas.
2. ADU Zoning Ordinances and AB 1033, which allows for up to 3 permitted dwellings on one's property, but you have to consider forming a micro HOA.
3. San Miguel Road Drainage Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) with a consensus for Alternative 3, which is a drainage pipeline to be buried along San Miguel Rd from the ball park storm drains all the way to Loma Del Sol drainage. It is the most expensive (\$5.3M), but the most robust of the alternatives to mitigate drainage issues.
4. Marianne Delatorre introduced herself as the County of SD, Senior Community Rep. for District 1 Board Supervisor Paloma Aguirre. I thanked Marianne, Aida Castaneda and Paola Martinez-Montes again for taking the time to meet with me to review the briefings for the community, which included:

- a) Bonita-Sunnyside Resident Survey
- b) Ace Self Storage
- c) Insite Secure Space Self Storage
- d) San Miguel Rd. Watershed Project
- e) Sweetwater Authority Floating Solar Project
- f) Abandoned Animal shelter converted to Rec Center

In addition, with regards to the SCPG Park Land Dedication Ordinance (PLDO) Project Priority List FY 2025-26, we were successful in submitting the abandoned animal shelter to the "list" to convert it to a Rec Center. We currently do not have the funding for this project as it is a new addition and the other projects listed have seniority and therefore priority. We currently have an approximate balance fund of \$223K for the prioritized projects.

- B. **Traffic and Roads: Mike Clowers:** The meeting this Friday has nothing for us on the agenda.
- C. **SVCA Membership:** Liz noted that we have 66 members: 27 gold and 39 paid.
- D. **Volunteer Patrol: Volunteer Patrol:** Jim Woodford provided these statistics:

October 2025 SHERIFF VOLUNTEER PATROL ACTIVITIES

Hours on patrol	90
Number of Patrols	9
Number of Miles Driven	407
Vacation Checks	3
Citizen Assists	6
Traffic Control	3
Number of Volunteers	6
Deploy Speed Tractor	0
Citations Issued	1
Yana home visit	7
Yana telephone calls	1

The car that moved the speed trailer is down a hitch.

- E. **Sweetwater Authority:** Flume devices are still available. They are free with a rebate. There is a program with the Authority where you can get your water rates lowered. We are still the second lowest in the County. They have put the idea of the EIR for the floating solar panels on hold, while they explore an energy renewal study. They are trying a recent technology to mitigate algae blooms on the reservoir.

**10. Announcements:** None.

**11. Meeting Adjourned:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

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.