



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-SUNNYSIDE LIBRARY
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING
December 3, 2025

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

Members Present: Tom Pocklington, Jim Woodford, Bill Coleman, Steven Elliott, Christine Huges, Susan Heavilin, Jim Woodford, Wendy Wilson, Daryl Hern, Parisa Hill.

Guest Present: Captain Michael Smith from Bonita-Sunnyside Fire District, Ernesto Castaneda from David Alvarez's office, Max Branscomb, Genevieve Fong, Ardyel Lim,.

1 Call to Order: 6:35 PM by President Felix Felix at the Bonita-Sunnyside Library Community Room.

2. Please be sure to sign in so our attendance records are accurate.

3 Approval of minutes: Richard Scott motioned to approve: Mike Parnell seconded. Passed

4 Special welcome: to our members (new and old) , 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.

\$4435.59 previous balance

-\$45.00 Paypal to Mail Chimp

-\$285.00 Ck 867 Paid to Keep It Growing Monthly Web Fee.

+\$250.00 Dues received

\$4460.59 ending balance

Bonita Sunnyside Fire Protection District – Monthly Report

By: Captain Smith

Presented to the Sweetwater Valley Civic Association

I'm here tonight on behalf of Fire Chief Sims, who couldn't be here this evening. I'd like to share a few updates from the Bonita Sunnyside Fire Protection District.

First, our ambulance compliance for the most recent reporting period is 96.77%, covering 104 ambulance responses through our partnership with the Chula Vista Fire Department. This continues to reflect strong system performance and reliability for our community.

We're also excited to welcome our newest member, Firefighter/Paramedic Trevor Magnett, who will officially start with us on December 7th.

The District has also adopted the new County Consolidated Fire Code, aligning Bonita with the latest regional standards for fire prevention and safety.

Regarding leadership updates, the Fire Chief selection process will begin January, and a Deputy Chief will hopefully be named at the District Board meeting on January 13th as part of the transition plan.

And finally, some exciting news for our training operations — we are nearing completion of our new live-fire burn building, which will be delivered to the Heartland Training Facility the first week of January 2026. This project will be a major step forward in providing realistic and modern training for firefighters throughout the region.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Bonita Sunnyside Fire Protection District. It's always a pleasure to keep the community updated on what's happening within your fire department.

8 Elected Officials Representatives Reports: Ardyel Lim submitted this report:

I am reaching out share some exciting details about a couple events that Senator Padilla will be hosting on **Wednesday, December 17!**

The first event of the day will be a webinar titled "**Small Business at Risk: Immigration Raids, Tariffs, and What Comes Next — A Webinar with Senator Steve Padilla**," hosted in partnership with Small Business Majority **from 11:00am to 12:00pm**. Join Senator Padilla for a fireside chat with local small business owners to discuss the top issues shaping California's Main Streets. From rising healthcare costs to workforce needs, immigration concerns, and the impact of tariffs on local supply chains, this conversation will explore how affordability pressures affect day to day business operations and what policy solutions could help entrepreneurs in the San Diego, Inland Empire and across the State compete and thrive. We'll close with a Q&A session with insights from Senator Padilla's office on state legislative efforts and available resources for affected businesses. If you or any other constituents are interested in attending this event, [please register here to receive the Zoom link.](#)

Event: Small Business at Risk: Immigration Raids, Tariffs, and What Comes Next — A Webinar with Senator Steve Padilla

Date & Time: Wednesday, December 17 from 11:00am to 12:00pm

Zoom Link: [Register Here](#)

Senator Padilla will also be hosting an **Open House** at his San Diego County District Office **from 6:00pm to 8:00pm!** Join Senator Padilla and our team to hear about recent budget and legislative wins, learn what he's working on in Sacramento, and get help with state services. We will also be available to answer questions and provide help with state services. During the event, we'll be gathering food donations for the **San Diego Food Bank**, which provides vital support to families and individuals in need across our community. Some of their **most-needed items** include canned

chicken and tuna, dry and canned beans, rice, cereal, peanut butter, canned soup, canned and dried fruit, canned vegetables, powdered milk, and infant formula. If you or any other constituents are interested in attending this event, please RSVP through our office's [registration link here](#). Please find the event details below:

Event: San Diego County District Office Open House

Date & Time: Wednesday, December 17 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Event Location: Senator Padilla's San Diego County District Office (780 Bay Blvd. Ste. 204, Chula Vista, CA 91910)

For any questions or further information, please feel free to contact our office through [Senator Padilla's website](#) or calling his San Diego County Office at (619) 409-7690. Thanks, and we hope to see you there!

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

Office: San Diego County: (619) 409-7690

Sacramento: (916) 651-4018 Imperial County: (760) 335-3442

Genevieve Fong sent in this report:

- Federal government reopened on November 13, 2025, after a prolonged shutdown. It was a record 43-day shutdown.

Federal agencies resumed operations; however, some federal workers had to await backpay. The federal government is funded at current rates through January 30, 2026, and then Congress needs to vote again on the Spending Bill. SNAP or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which provides food assistance, is fully funded through September 30, 2026.

As Congress will deliberate more on the Spending Bill in the new year, Rep Juan Vargas continues to be concerned about people losing their health care coverage, as millions will see their insurance premiums rise when the Affordable Care Act (ACA) tax credits expire in mid-December.

Congressman Vargas serves on the House Financial Services Committee (FSC), and he spoke at a 12/3/25 FSC hearing today in favor of looking at reforming minimum lot sizes at the city level to increase housing affordability.

He also recently sent a letter as Co-Chair of the Congressional Sustainable Investment Caucus, to financial regulators on making sure they take

climate risk into account. He also sent a letter on the importance of the independence of the federal reserve.

The office is conducting interviews the week of 12/8/25 for Service Academy Congressional nominations, with a panel of local community folks, including a former U.S. Navy Seal and other military leaders.

The office is here to assist with any federal inquiries, and it will be open limited hours during the week of Christmas and New Year's. Please call the office at 619.422.5963 between 9am to 5pm if you have any questions or need additional information.

Ernesto Castenada from Assemblymember David Alvarez's Office



DAVID ALVAREZ

Assemblymember, District 80



Assemblymember David Alvarez
invites you to his District Office for a

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, December 16, 2025
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

276 Church Avenue, Suite D
Chula Vista, CA 91910

You may park at Banner Bank
only after 5:00 p.m.

Visit the District Office to meet
Assemblymember Alvarez and enjoy
a cozy drink with a festive treat!
RSVP Required:
tinyurl.com/AlvarezHoliday2025



From December 1 - 18, Assemblymember Alvarez's District Office will collect
in-kind donations for The Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank.

The donations will be distributed in the 80th Assembly District!

- Canned Chicken and Tuna
- Dry and Canned Beans
- Cereal
- Rice, Nuts and Seeds
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Soup
- Canned & Dried Fruit
- Canned Vegetables
- Powdered Milk
- Infant Formula

For any questions, please contact (619) 498-8580
or Lilianna.Barba@asm.ca.gov.



9. Continuing Business: We did the Kindness Week Worldwide, had S'mores made from marshmallow creme and either chocolate or Nutella on graham crackers. It was a big hit. We used a pop-up which helped with shade.

There was more discussion on the Starlight Parade. Judy said she could get her truck decorated and put perhaps Miss Bonita and some other dignitary like Chief Sims in the back. We decided to use lights and hay bales for the dignitaries.

8. New Business: President Felix Felix stated that he was meeting with The Rotary as a guest speaker. There was a discussion about approaching the Bonita Mama's.

After a longer discussion, Liz motioned that Parisa's group should be approached, Richard Scott seconded. Passed.

Thank you letters and certificates of Appreciation were given out to Wendy Wilson for her aid in the Taste of Bonita, to Max Branscomb for his work on the Bonitafest, and to Elizabeth Cox for her efforts with the Kindness Club and Wish Well.

There was a review of the draft SVCA Website redesign concept. The formal proposal to come. Then we had the same letter that Planning Group edited to give a s a support letter to Mayor John McCann including a horse arena in the Draft Rohr Park Master Plan.

10. Community Forum:

- a. SCPG Chair Felix Felix updates:** We worked on the letter supporting the keeping of the horse arena by Rohr Park.
- b. Marianne Delatorre** is our new liaison to Supervisor Aguirre.
- c. Traffic and Roads: Mike Clowers-** The meeting this Friday has nothing for us on the agenda.
- d. Volunteer Patrol: Volunteer Patrol:** Jim Woodford provided these statistics:

G. Sweetwater Authority: Elizabeth was not here

e. SVCA Membership: Liz noted that we have 68 members: 28 gold and 40 paid.

11. Announcements: None

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.

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.