



SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION
MEETING HELD AT THE BONITA-SUNNYSIDE LIBRARY
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING
December 3, 2025

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

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

Guests 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. Attendance:** Members were reminded to sign in for attendance record accuracy.
- 3. Approval of Nov. 4, 2025 Minutes:** Richard Scott motioned to approve: Mike Parnell seconded. Passed.
- 4. Special welcome:** a welcome greeting was provided to our members, guests, representatives of our elected officials, and to those contemplating joining the SVCA.
- 5. Treasurer's Report:** Stephen Stonehouse provided the December Treasurer's report.
\$4,435.59 Previous balance

- \$45.00 Paypal to Mail Chimp
- \$180.00 Check # 867 Paid to Keep It Growing Monthly Web Fee
+ \$250.00 Dues received
\$4,460.59 Ending balance

6. Bonita Fire Department: Captain Smith mentioned that he was here on behalf of Fire Chief Sims. 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 excited to welcome our newest member, Firefighter/Paramedic Trevor Magnett, who will officially start Dec. 7, 2025. The district has 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 13, 2026 as part of the transition plan. In other news, 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. The 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 with the Fire Department.

7. County of SD Sheriff/CHP: no report-outs.

8. Elected Officials Representatives Reports:

A. Ardyel Lim submitted the following report: I am reaching out to share some exciting details about events that Senator Padilla will be hosting on Wednesday, December 17, 2025.

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. The 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 see below.

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

Date & Time: Wednesday, December 17, 2025 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, 2025 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. Thank you.

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. Genevieve Fong reported the following: The Federal government reopened on November 13, 2025, after a prolonged 43-day shutdown. Federal agencies resumed operations; however, some federal workers had to await back pay. 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 deliberates 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 December 3, 2025 FSC hearing 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 Dec. 8, 2025 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 need additional information.

C. Ernesto Castaneda from Assemblymember David Alvarez's Office submitted the following: Assemblymember David Alvarez is holding a Holiday Open House on Decemebr 16, 2025 from 5 to 7PM, at 276 Church Avenue, Suite D, Chula Vista, CA 91910. Those interested can

RSVP here:

https://lcmspubcontact.lc.ca.gov/PublicLCMS/rsvp_const.php?dist=AD80&rsvpId=2412&bid=2587 .

In addition, from December 1-18, 2025, the District Office will be collecting In-Kind donations for The Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank. The following will be collected: Canned chicken and tuna, beans, cereal, rice, nuts, peanut butter, soups, dried fruit, vegetables, powdered milk and infant formula. For further information contact Lilianna.barba@asm.ca.gov, or (619) 498-8580.

D. Amanda Fredeluces from Mayor John McCann's Office submitted the following: I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving surrounded by friends and family! This Saturday, December 6, 2025 we're excited to host the 61st Annual Starlight Parade and Festival in Downtown Chula Vista. Bring your family and friends to enjoy an afternoon and evening full of holiday fun.

Festivities begin at 3:00 p.m. at Memorial Park, featuring a kids' train ride, photos with Santa, a craft center, and a holiday market. Guests can also enjoy live performances by local schools and community groups, including Mariachi Internacional de San Diego and the Chula Vista High School Choir.

At 5:45 p.m., join us for the tree lighting ceremony, which will lead right into the Starlight Parade at 6:00 p.m. We're in the final stretch of preparations and are thrilled to celebrate another successful parade, a cherished Chula Vista tradition that Mayor McCann proudly brought back after its several-year hiatus.

Looking back at the year, there is so much that the Mayor is proud of regarding the growth of the City, and as he always says, "this is Chula Vista's decade!" Earlier this year, we opened Sweetwater Park, a 39-acre park on the Bayfront, North of the brand-new Gaylord Hotel, which officially opened in May. The City completed construction on the new Millenia Library in Otay Ranch, the first library built since 1995 in the City. This building will be home to SDSU Nursing and Global Campus classes, a public library, and the Chula Vista Entertainment Complex. There has been an incredible amount of momentum on the Chula Vista University District, and we truly thank our

amazing partners, Assemblymember Alvarez, State Senator Padilla, and Southwestern College for all their hard work in helping the City achieve this.

The Mayor led successful efforts alongside the Filipino community to get a park approved that will be in dedication to Filipino American Veterans, which will be the very first in the City, County, and the Nation. Next year, we have more to look forward to. We are breaking ground on the Palomar Point next month, which is a Permanent Supportive Housing project. The Millenia Library is expected to open at the end of the summer and much more.

I hope you all enjoy the Holidays and Happy New Year!

9. Continuing Business:

A. Kindness Week Worldwide November 8-15, 2025: the SVCA participated in Kindness Week Worldwide November 8, 2025 with the Kindness Club by serving S'mores made from marshmallow cream, chocolate bars and Nutella on graham crackers at a Pop-Up venue. Images were presented of the venue showing children pledging to do good deeds and receiving a book of their choice. It was a big hit.

B. Participation in the Starlight Parade Dec. 6, 2025: There was more discussion on the Starlight Parade. Judy mentioned that we could use her truck and decorate it with lights, banners, and Christmas ornaments. Miss Bonita, Chief Sims and Ernesto offered to ride in the back.

C. SVCA President as a Guest Speaker for various clubs, organizations and associations: President Felix Felix stated that he was spending time meeting with different groups and pillars of our community to foster sponsorship and inclusiveness and presented images of his meetings.

D. Recognition of Wendy Wilson, Max Branscomb and Elizabeth Cox: Thank You Letters and Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Wendy Wilson, Max Branscomb and Elizabeth Cox for their volunteer efforts in Taste of Bonita, Bonitafest, and Kindness Club respectively.

10. New Business:

A. SVCA Website Redesign Proposal: There was a review of the Draft SVCA Website Redesign Proposal. The formal proposal was approved by the members to move forward with conducting RFPs.

B. Support Letter to City of Chula Vista Officials to include a Horse Arena in the Draft Rohr Park Master Plan: A letter that was drafted at the SCPG Planning Group was presented for approval to our members. After much discussion, our members approved the letter to be submitted to the City of Chula Vista.

11. Community Forum:

A. SCPG Chair Felix Felix updates: The SCPG spent time drafting a letter to support our community to keep the horse arena in the Rohr Park Master Plan. Marianne Delatorre is our new liaison to Supervisor Aguirre and she has been very supportive to our community needs.

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

D. Volunteer Patrol: Jim Woodford mentioned that they have a patrol vehicle and that they could relocate the speed enforcement trailer where needed as soon as they could attach the tow hitch. If we have recommendations for setting up the trailer in certain areas, he is open to suggestions. In addition, the volunteer patrol is always looking for more recruits.

E. Sweetwater Authority: Elizabeth Cox was not present.

12. Announcements: None

13. 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.