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NOTICE: CHANGE OF LOCATION

SWEETWATER VALLEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Valley Vista Elementary School, 3724 Valley Vista Way, Bonita, CA 91902

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

June 3, 2026, Start Time: 6PM

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

Members Present: Dennise Elliott, Steven Elliott, Bill Coleman, Jake Hill, Mark Kukuchek, and Tony Tieber.

Guests Present: District Supervisor Paloma Aguirre, Deputy Fire Chief Mike Smith, Ardyel Lim, Marianne Delatorre, CHP Captain Reggie Williams, CHP LT Jennifer Fernandez, SD Sheriff Sergeant Carrillo, Ernesto Castenada, liaison for David Alverez, and Amanda Fredeluces.

1. Call to Order: 6:05 PM by President Felix Felix at Valley Vista Elementary School. Pledge of Allegiance.

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 May 6, 2026 Minutes: Judy Tieber motioned to approve, Mike Parnell seconded. Passed.

5. Treasurer's Report: Stephen Stonehouse provided the June 2026 Treasurer's report.

\$2,543.41 Previous balance
-\$45.00 PayPal to Mail Chimp (May)
-\$48.18 PayPal Go Daddy
-\$210.00 Check # 876 Paid to Keep It Growing May Web Fee
\$2,288.41 Ending balance

6. Continuing Business:

A) State of Bonita Address & Membership Drive for August: A reminder that our District 1, Supervisor Paloma Aguirre will be holding the State of Bonita address during our membership drive at the August 2026 Civic Association Meeting. This is tentatively scheduled at the Bonita Library. Please check our website and Facebook for any changes. Anyone who would like to become a member please go see Steve at the back table. As we can see from everyone's presence, civic engagement is very important in improving the quality of life in our community.

At this time, President Felix gave a special thanks to our members who have renewed their memberships. In addition, President Felix gave a special thanks to Dennise and Scott Elliot. He asked them to stand so we could officially thank them for becoming Gold members. He also asked our Board members and officers to stand, Steve Stonehouse, our treasurer, Liz Stonehouse, our secretary, Judy, our vice president, and Directors Mike Clowers, Richard Scott, Mike Parnell and Sharon Coleman. He stated, that for some of us this is like a full-time job, but we do it because we want to be of service to the community. Our altruistic service as volunteers will not go unnoticed. That said, President Felix requested a round of applause.

B) SVCA Elections extended to Sept. 2026: Likewise, we have extended our Sweetwater Valley Civic Association elections through September 2026. So, if you have an interest in becoming an officer or a board member, please let us know, as we would like to work together with you to improve our community.

7. New Business:

A) Rady Children's Health: Prevention Starts with Me SVCA Sponsorship: Vice President Judy Tieber mentioned that the Bonita

Mama's are holding a seminar called Prevention Starts With Me for parents, grandparents and caregivers, discussing what abuse looks like today, warning signs and how to talk to children in age-appropriate ways. It is going to be presented by Rady Children's Health members at Skyline Hills Library, 7900 Paradise Valley road, Saturday June 13th 2026 at 10:00 AM. There are flyers in the back.

8. Community Forum:

A) Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Department, Deputy Fire Chief Mike

Smith: The Bonita Firefighters Association has announced that its annual Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for August 9, 2026, from 8:30AM to 12PM. Additional event information will be released as the date approaches. We look forward to welcoming the community for this long-standing tradition. Bonita Fire will also serve as the host site for an E-Bike Safety Workshop on June 6, 2026, as 9AM at the Fire Department. This is in partnership with the San Diego County Sheriff's, Rady's children Hospital and a few E-Bike Companies. Information regarding the event has been shared on the department's social media. This workshop is intended to provide valuable safety information for riders and families as E-Bike use continues to increase throughout our community. Additionally, Bonita Fire personnel recently hosted a Hands-on CPR training session at the Bonita Library, providing community members with lifesaving education and practical skills that can make a difference during a cardiac emergency.

Personnel Recognition: We are proud to report that Engineer Bryan Marcon was recently recognized by the Chula Vista Rotary Club and presented its Above and Beyond Award. This recognition reflects Engineer Maron's dedication, professionalism, and service to the community and the fire service.

Operations Update: Bonita Fire crews responded to 167 calls during the reporting period. Responses included vegetation fire near Quarry Road off Sweetwater Road that required a coordinated regional response. We are pleased to report that law enforcement officials have made an arrest in connection with that fire.

Emergency Medical Services: Having a strong partnership with the Chula Vista Ambulance Transport System (ATS), we have a high 97% compliance rating. These results demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing timely emergency medical care and reflect the strength of our partnership with the Chula Vista Fire Department's Ambulance Transport System.

Community Risk Reduction: Bonita Fire continues to work with the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County to provide Fire Wise Evaluations of residents on wildfire preparedness, defensible space, and home hardening strategies. Residents in Bonita and surrounding communities are encouraged to take advantage of available educational resources and free home fire assessments.

Fire Chief Transition: As many community members are aware, Fire Chief Sims will retire on June 30, 2026, concluding a distinguished career of service for the Bonita community. Members of the public are always welcome to stop by the fire station to wish Chief Sims well and thank him for his 31 years of dedicated service. Later that morning, Bonita Fire personnel will honor Chief Sims with his final ride aboard a Bonita Fire engine, a long-standing fire service tradition recognizing the end of a remarkable career. Thank you for your continued support of the Bonita Sunnyside Fire Protection District. We value our partnership with the Sweetwater Valley Civic Association and appreciate the opportunity to serve this community.

9. Elected Officials Representatives Reports:

A) Ardyel Lim from Senator Steve Padilla's Office mentioned the following report: Last May 29th 2026 was the House of Origin Deadlines, which means that any bills introduced in the Senate must be voted on by that date. All of Senator Padilla's bills made it out of the Senate Floor with a large majority having bipartisan support and will now head to the Assembly. This includes bills such as the Insurance Claims Reform, AI Therapist, AI Toy Moratorium, and Social Media Right to Deletion. The Senate Democratic Caucus also put out their State Budget Plan last May 28th, 2026, which includes key budget priorities. Some of these priorities include:

Core funding for In-Home Supported Services Homeless Housing, providing \$100 million to support local food banks and \$320 million to support increased county work load for Medi-Cal and CalFresh to meet requirements for HR 1. Other projects include: Assistance and Prevention (HHAP), which provides more funding for 2027-28. Home Ownership- Provides \$1 billion for home ownership programs including the California Dream for All Program and Affordable Housing- for Multifamily Housing Programs and the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Programs. In addition, Increasing the size of Rainy Day Funds in the budget to 30%.

In addition two grants to share include:

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is advancing the State's ongoing Wildfire and Forest Resilience efforts through the availability of up to \$70 million in funding for community-focused Wildfire Prevention and Resilience projects. Applications are due on July 8, 2026 at 3pm. For more information, please visit the following link: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/grants/wildfire-prevention-grants> .

The California Association of Veteran Service Agencies (CAVSA) has a new initiative called Veterans Support to Self-Reliance (VSSR) Program, designed to support California veterans on their path to stability and long-term self-sufficiency. Please visit the link below to learn more about the program, including eligibility and available services: <https://californiaveterans.org/veterans-support-to-self-reliance-vssr-program/> .

We are still actively working on planning events that we can have in the district, so please stay tuned for any updates or let me know if you have any suggestions. 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.

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

B) Elizabeth Cox, SWA Board Director for District 5, reported the following: We had an engineering and operations committee meeting today and got a few updates. The Central Wheeler tank that is in

Bonita and services a couple of our audience members tonight is on track for completion in August 2026. It should increase the water pressure. We just reached 1000 people being supported by the Water Affordability Program. This is \$30.00 per bill for folks who qualify for the low-income assistance and \$40.00 per bill for seniors. There is still funding available. This is not rate-generated revenue, this is cell phone tower lease money. This is not being subsidized by other taxpayers. This is extra revenue that is generated to be redistributed to support our disadvantaged rate payers.

Last week we unveiled the Sweetwater High School photo contest winners. Their displays are now at the Bonita Museum for a few more weeks. There is also a scholarship available for students who want to work in water. So, whether it's college, community college or workforce development, it's \$1000. Applications are open through the end of July.

We are in the midst of the budget cycle. The board could adopt as soon as June 10th or June 24th. The rate study, which will set the rates for the next few years ahead was delayed to August. The budget anticipates a 2% rate increase. We are able to keep our rates lower because we are able to source our surface water from the Sweetwater Reservoir and Loveland reservoir. We also source groundwater from our wells and through the Reynolds Desal Facility. Thank you for the opportunity to share a few updates.

C) Ernesto Castenada, Rep. for Assemblymember David Alvarez reported the following: I have two updates: first, Chief Sims has talked about the need for funding for their new fire engine. Assemblymember Alvarez along with the assembly delegation, the San Diego assembly delegation has requested \$900,000 for building the new fire engine for the Bonita Sunnyside Fire Department. The other thing I brought was the legislative package of what Assemblymember Alvarez is working on. All of the bills right now are on the state, so they passed the assembly. If interested, please come see me afterwards.

12. Meeting Adjourned: With Ernesto's report, I'll close our Sweetwater Valley Civic Association Meeting and turn the microphone over to our District One Supervisor Paloma Aguirre. Meeting adjourned at 6:29 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.