



COUNTY of VENTURA

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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December 5, 2023

Board of Supervisors
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT: Receive and File a Report Back on Various Boards, Commissions, and Committees; Provide Direction Regarding Boards, Commissions, and Committees that have Not Met for More than Five Years.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Receive and file this report and attachments for the boards, commissions, and committees identified in this Board letter.
2. Provide further direction to staff regarding any additional analysis or follow-up.

DISCUSSION:

Your Board, in your capacity as the governing legislative body of the County and various dependent local agencies, sits on and/or appoints members to a total of 93 discretionary and mandatory boards, commissions, and committees (collectively referred to as "boards").

At your September 26, 2023, meeting (agenda item 48), your Board was presented with a three-year update on the 63 discretionary boards; that is, boards that the County is not legally required to support or participate in. Based on the results of a survey conducted by the Clerk of the Board's office, most of these discretionary boards are meeting their objectives and convening regularly. During the September 26th item, your Board directed staff to report back on those boards that have not met in five years including the Community Commission for Ventura County, the Eastern Ventura County Conservation Authority, and the Fish and Game Commission. Your Board also requested staff recommendations as to such boards moving forward. The following information and staff recommendations are provided in response to your Board's direction:

1. Board of Grading Appeals (Building and Safety Division)

Method of formation: Ventura County Building Code

Formation: 2002

Last meeting: Prior to 2005

Purpose: The Board of Grading Appeals hears administrative appeals regarding the application of the grading provisions of the County's Building Code to individual permits. The board has not met recently because it is only convened on an as-needed basis upon the County's receipt of a grading appeal from a permit applicant.

Staff recommendation: The Board of Grading Appeals was created and is designated by Ventura County Building Code as a neutral authority to hear appeals at the request of permit applicants. It serves an important function, when needed, and is not recommended for modification or dissolution.

2. Eastern Ventura County Conservation Authority (EVCCA)

Method of formation: Joint Powers Agreement between the County and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Formation: 1989

Last meeting: 1996

Purpose: The County and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy ("SMMC") formed a joint powers authority – which is an independent legal entity – to facilitate the creation and operation of Happy Camp Canyon Regional Park on County-owned land. The wilderness portion of the park is a 3,000-acre area in the SMMC's Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor between the cities of Moorpark and Simi Valley. Under an agreement with EVCCA, the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation and Conservancy Authority provides ranger services and volunteer trail assistance for the park at no cost to the County.

Staff recommendation: The EVCCA is a joint powers authority that exists to facilitate the continued operation and management of the Happy Camp Canyon Regional Park. As such, the continued operation of EVCCA is required to facilitate the recreational use of County-owned land in partnership with SMMC. The fact that EVCCA's governing board (consisting of two County appointees) has apparently not met in recent years does not mean that this entity is no longer needed. No modification or dissolution of this board is recommended.

3. Fire Protection District Board of Appeals

Method of formation: Ventura County Fire Protection Ordinance

Formation: 1983

Last meeting: 2015

Purpose: The Fire Protection District Board of Appeals hears administrative appeals regarding Ventura County Fire Protection District's determinations and interpretations of its governing ordinance regarding issues such as the suitability of alternate materials and types of construction, except those dealing with the abatement of combustible or flammable materials and fire hazard reduction (weed abatement).

Staff recommendation: The Fire Protection District Board of Appeals was created and is designated by Ventura County Fire Protection District Ordinance as a neutral authority to hear appeals of certain staff determinations and interpretations. It serves an important function, when needed, and is not recommended for modification or dissolution.

4. Community Commission for Ventura County

Method of formation: Unknown (no record that the County formed this board)

Last meeting: 2015

Purpose: The Community Commission of Ventura County ("Community Commission") has not convened for several years and is not operational. It was previously a multi-jurisdictional body composed of a 26-member Board of Commissioners and a Community Advisory body representing the County and Ventura County cities, schools, and community groups and members. Its primary role was to be a central forum for bringing together service providers, experts, advocates, and interested parties to formulate plans and allocate available resources to meet the needs and issues of children and families in Ventura County. Your Board previously appointed members to the Community Commission and, in turn, appointed seated Community Commission members to the County's Children & Families First Commission. In recognition of the non-operational status of the Community Commission in recent years, on January 24, 2023, your Board adopted an amended ordinance (County Ordinance No. 4614) governing the County's Children & Families First Commission ("County Commission") which deletes references to participation by the Community Commission and its membership in the County Commission.

Staff recommendation: The Community Commission is defunct and no longer serves a County purpose. Because no record exists of the County having formed this body, there is no basis for the County to take action to formally dissolve it. It will be removed from the County's list of boards, commissions, and agencies.

5. Fish and Game (Wildlife) Commission

Method of formation: Board Resolution

Formation: 1975

Last meeting: 2010

Purpose: The Fish and Game Commission ("Commission") is an advisory body charged with making recommendations to the Board on grant funding for projects to support the protection and propagation of wildlife in Ventura County for the purposes set forth in Fish and Game Code section 13103. The Commission's fish and wildlife grant funding was historically derived from fines and penalties levied for violations of the California Fish and Game Code and the interest earned on account balances. The District Attorney prosecutes Fish and Game Code violations and other environmental offenses. The Commission is overseen by the County Harbor Department.

On October 26, 2010, the Board adopted revised policies and procedures regarding the Commission. Due to extremely low fund balances and lack of anticipated revenue, the Board directed that the first \$3,000 in Fish and Game funding be allocated to the Harbor Department for Commission administration, followed by a contribution of \$45,000 to the District Attorney's office for environmental prosecution, with the next \$15,000 reserved for grants to be recommended by the Commission. The Board also directed the Commission to meet only once a year. However, since 2010, the Commission has not been convened at all due to lack of funding available for grant awards under this policy.

Staff recommendation: Due to the lack of Fish and Game funding available for grant awards pursuant to the Board's above-stated funding policy, the Commission has not met since 2010. Moreover, since 2010 the County has established the CEO's Sustainability Division which operates environmental grant funding programs; the Sustainability Division could help administer Fish & Game grants in the future should such funding become available (which is not currently anticipated). Should your Board desire, the Fish and Game Commission could be dissolved which would be accomplished by your Board's approval, at a subsequent meeting, of a resolution of dissolution.

6. Piru Local Parks Advisory Commission

Method of formation: Board Resolution

Formation: 1978

Last meeting date: Unknown

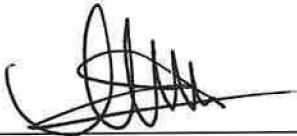
Purpose: The purpose of the Piru Local Parks Advisory Commission ("Piru Commission") is to advise the District 3 Supervisor, raise funds for equipment and

services, and provide recommendations to the County Parks Department on local park matters of the Piru community.

Staff recommendation: Since the Piru Commission's formation in 1978, the Piru Neighborhood Council (PNC), a non-profit organization that convenes regular public meetings, has assumed the role of the Piru community's primary advisor to the County and has met the local needs of event planning, community outreach, and coordination with local agencies and service providers. The PNC works very closely with the County Parks Department and District 3, including regarding park and recreational services and facilities. Should your Board desire, the Piru Commission could be dissolved which would be accomplished by your Board's approval, at a subsequent meeting, of a resolution of dissolution.

It is recommended that your Board receive and file this report and provide further direction to staff if your board so desires.

This Board item has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, County Counsel, and the Auditor-Controller's Office. Please contact Mia Martinez at 654-2566 for further information.



Mia Martinez
Assistant Chief Deputy Clerk of The Board



Sevet Johnson, PsyD.
County Executive Officer

- Exhibit 1 – Board of Grading Appeals Surveys
- Exhibit 2 – Eastern Ventura County Conservation Authority Surveys
- Exhibit 3 – Community Commission for Ventura County Surveys
- Exhibit 4 – Fire Protection District Board of Appeals Surveys
- Exhibit 5 – Fish and Game Commission Surveys
- Exhibit 6 – Piru Local Parks Advisory Commission Surveys