



Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board December 11, 2023 Meeting Agenda

County of Ventura • Resource Management Agency

800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009-1740 • (805) 654-2478 • www.vcrma.org/divisions/planning

Notice is hereby given that on **Monday, December 11, 2023**, at **1:15 p.m.** the Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board (CHB) will convene for a public hearing to held at the Ventura County Government Center, Hall of Administration, 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009, 3rd Floor, Multi-Purpose Conference Room.

PROVIDING PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments may be provided using the following options: (1) e-mail public comment in advance of the meeting; and/or (2) in-person public comment.

Option 1 – If you wish to make a comment on a specific item in advance of the meeting, please submit your comment for that item via email by 10:00 a.m. on the day of the hearing to Dillan Murray, staff, via email at Dillan.Murray@Ventura.org. Please indicate the Agenda Item Number on which you are commenting in the Subject Line of your email. Your comment will be provided to the Cultural Heritage Board and placed into the item's record at the Cultural Heritage Board hearing.

Option 2 – If you wish to make a comment in-person, you must be present at the meeting location and provide your comment prior to the close of the public comment period for the item you wish to speak on.

AGENDA

1. **1:15 P.M. CALL TO ORDER THE MEETING OF THE VENTURA COUNTY CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD**
2. **ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**
 - 3a. Vote to approve the December 11, 2023 Agenda
 - 3b. Vote to approve the November 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

This time is set aside for public comment on items not otherwise on this agenda which are within the purview of the Cultural Heritage Board (CHB). Speakers wishing to address the CHB shall be allowed a maximum of three minutes for their comments. The CHB is prohibited from taking action on any item that is not part of the printed and published agenda.

5. **CONTINUED ITEMS**

None

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

6a. **Action:** Receive a presentation from guest speaker Dr. Colleen M. Delaney, an archaeologist and anthropology professor at CSU Channel Islands, on her recent book, *Rancho Guadaluca: Last Ranch of California's Central Coast*.

7. **REPORTS**

7a. Board Member Reports

7b. CHB Program Updates from Staff

8. **NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled meeting is January 8, 2024.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

In Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Dillan Murray, staff, at 805-654-5042 or Dillan.Murray@Ventura.org or the California Relay Service at (866) 735-2929. Reasonable advance notification of the need for accommodation prior to the meeting (72 hours advance notice is preferable) will enable us to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.



Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board November 27, 2023 **Draft** Meeting Minutes

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Note: The following is a summary of actions taken by the Cultural Heritage Board (CHB) at their public hearing and not a verbatim transcription.

1. **1:15 P.M. CALL TO ORDER THE MEETING OF THE VENTURA COUNTY CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD**

2. **ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

CHB Members Present:

Miguel Fernandez (Chair), Tyson Cline, Herbert Gooch, John Kulwicz, Mike Winters, and Anthony Angelini

CHB Members Absent:

Gary Blum

Staff Present:

Dillan Murray, Associate Planner, Ventura County Planning Division
Tricia Maier, Planning Programs Manager, Ventura County Planning Division

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

3a. Vote to approve the November 27, 2023 Agenda

Board Member Kulwicz made a motion to approve the November 27, 2023 Agenda. Board Member Gooch seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

3b. Vote to approve the November 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Stephen Schafer, a member of the public, commented to recommend that the November 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes be revised as follows (pg. 3): "Mr. Schafer suggested that the windows be replaced with metal bronze, aluminum, or steel ~~copper or steel~~ frame windows, particularly those on the primary elevation."

Board Member Kulwicz made a motion to approve the November 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes as revised. Chair Fernandez seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 (Board Members Cline and Angelini abstained).

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

5. **CONTINUED ITEMS**

None

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

- 6a. **Action:** Receive a presentation and provide feedback on the draft Ventura County Cultural Heritage Program goals and priorities for 2023-2024 to be included in the Certified Local Government Annual Report to be prepared in 2024 for the California Office of Historic Preservation.

Presentation by Staff: Dillan Murray, staff, presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining the item background, goals and priorities for 2023-2024, and staff recommendations. Staff recommended the CHB take the following actions on this item:

1. **CONDUCT** public hearing, **RECEIVE** oral and written testimony, and **CONSIDER** the Planning Division staff report and all exhibits and attachments hereto; and
2. Based on the preceding evidence and analysis, **PROVIDE** comments on the proposed Ventura County Cultural Heritage Program goals and priorities for 2023-2024 to be included in the Certified Local Government Annual Report to the California Office of Historic Preservation.

Public Comment:

Stephen Schafer of the San Buenaventura Conservancy commented to recommend that the CHB partner with the California Preservation Foundation (CPF) to host a local training workshop. Mr. Schafer noted that CPF would need at least 20 paid attendees, and he could reach out to preservation folks in Ojai and Oxnard to generate interest. Next, Mr. Schafer commented that the Matilija Post Office is eligible to be downgraded following its demolition. Finally, Mr. Schafer recommended that the Capital Improvements Projects (CIP) screening item be moved up in terms of priority on the Cultural Heritage Program list of goals and priorities. Mr. Schafer suggested that the CHB agendaize a future discussion item regarding the CIP list so that the CHB has an opportunity to weigh in on potential impacts to historic properties.

Discussion and Deliberation:

Board Member Cline inquired about the possibility of using grant funding to survey all County-owned facilities in order to better understand potential

impacts to historic resources. Tricia Maier, staff, noted that the annual CIP list is intended to guide project funding for current and future years. Once individual projects proceed, agencies should be reviewing projects on a case-by-case basis for potential historic resource impacts. Dillan Murray, staff, noted that staff can monitor grant opportunities to see if there are any in alignment with this potential task.

Board Member Gooch commented that it would be helpful to know more about the facilities the County owns.

Board Member Winters inquired whether it would be possible to agendaize a future discussion item regarding County-owned facilities. Dillan Murray, staff, noted that he is not aware of a master, aggregated list of all County-owned facilities to review, although staff would look into the issue further. A consensus of Board Members favored returning for a discussion of this topic in the future.

Next, the Board members began a discussion on Task #14 on the list of draft CHB Priorities, which is to inventory and screen County of Ventura-owned properties and Public Works Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) for the presence of designated or potentially eligible cultural heritage sites.

In the context of Task #14, Board Member Angelini inquired as to why the Santa Paula Fire Station, which is listed in the California Register of Historical Resources, did not come before the CHB? Tricia Maier, staff, noted that she was unaware of specifics, but that Planning Division staff scheduled an upcoming meeting with Public Works staff to discuss the issue. Ms. Maier noted her assumption that part of the issue was that the fire station was a City of Santa Paula-owned building that was transferred to the County. Ms. Maier referenced the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines (ISAGs), which are the rules to be followed by any County agency processing a discretionary permit in order to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act. One item in the ISAGs concerns the evaluation of potential impacts to historical resources, which directs lead agencies to coordinate project review by the CHB. As more interagency coordination occurs regarding County procedures, the anticipation is that these reviews by the CHB would occur as needed on a project-by-project basis.

Board Member Angelini questioned how often projects are falling through the cracks that should be reviewed by the CHB? In addition, now that the CHB is aware of this happening in the case of the Santa Paula Fire Station, Board Member Angelini noted his view that there should be some form of consequence to disincentivize this from happening in the future.

Board Member Winters echoed the view that some action should be taken now that the CHB is aware of this case. Board Member Cline repeated his view that a historic survey of County-owned facilities would help prevent this from happening.

Chair Fernandez inquired whether the Santa Paula Fire Station was officially listed in any historic register. Stephen Schafer noted that it is listed in the California Register of Historical Resources and eligible for the National Register of Historic Resources. According to Mr. Schafer, the City of Santa Paula made the Public Works Agency aware of the historic status of the building at the time of transfer.

Chair Fernandez noted the possibility that either the Public Works Agency does not deal with these issues and weren't aware of required procedures, or they attempted to ignore the issue and move forward. Chair Fernandez noted his view that it is important to be proactive with agencies that have the power to affect properties or resources and make them aware of the procedures they must follow. In addition, it is important to make them aware that historic preservation advocates have their eyes on this issue. Chair Fernandez stated that the upcoming staff meeting is a good step, and recommended going to high levels in the County to encourage a mindset that all departments need to communicate and follow established procedures. Chair Fernandez also noted that it could be a personnel issue when staffing changes take place and institutional knowledge is lost. In addition, Chair Fernandez recommended that staff communicate with the Department of Airports regarding their upcoming projects.

Board Member Winters requested the Santa Paula Fire Station be agendaized at a future meeting. Board Member Winters inquired about the upcoming meeting between Planning Division and Public Works staff. Tricia Maier, staff, noted that the meeting is intended to collect facts about the situation and the review process that took place.

Board Member Winters noted that the Preservation Award Program, [Task #9 on the list of draft CHB Priorities], would be a great opportunity to show the positive work being done in historic preservation, as opposed to just the punitive aspects. Board members agreed that this should be a priority for the next year.

Board Member Cline inquired whether the Oxnard Historic District architectural design guide handout referenced in Task #13 could be accomplished by the City of Oxnard, or whether it could be accomplished quickly by hiring someone to do it. Chair Fernandez noted that there is not the expertise to do it in-house at the City, and that it is also a question of financial willingness. Chair Fernandez recommended the identification of funding sources as a viable way forward.

Tricia Maier, staff, noted that this item could also be added to the grant opportunities task in order to find someone to assist with the work. Dillan Murray, staff, stated that he can reach out to the City of Oxnard to understand their level of interest in getting involved in this task.

A consensus of Board Members favored elevating the screening of the CIP list in Task 14 to a higher priority level, from low to medium.

Board Member Cline inquired about how the task priority rankings worked. Dillan Murray, staff, noted that higher priority items typically require more staff and/or CHB time, effort, and resources.

Dillan Murray, staff, noted that the revised Cultural Heritage Program goals and priorities for 2023-2024 will return to the Board as part of the draft CLG Annual Report in the spring.

Chair Fernandez recommended making note of the Japanese cemetery speaker session held last summer in the document under the task describing the guest speaker series.

7. REPORTS

7a. Board Member Reports

Board Member Kulwicz reported that the homeless shelter in Santa Paula is progressing and nearly open.

Board Member Winters reported on his recent participation in the County of Ventura 150th Anniversary Event held at the Agriculture Museum in Santa Paula on October 21st.

Board Member Angelini reported on his new role working for the City of Simi Valley. In addition, Board Member Angelini reported on his recent attendance at the State of the County speech held at the Reagan Library.

Other Board Members did not have anything to report.

7b. CHB Program Updates from Staff

Dillan Murray, staff, reported on an upcoming guest speaker session to be held on Monday, December 11th. Dr. Colleen Delaney, an archaeologist and anthropology professor at CSU Channel Islands, will discuss her recent book, *Rancho Guadalupe: Last Ranch of California's Central Coast*. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. This opportunity will also be shared via County social media channels to encourage public attendance.

Next, Mr. Murray reported that staff has scheduled the CHB meeting dates for 2024. Due to scheduling conflicts, some of the meetings may be held in alternative meeting rooms at the Government Center. Please note the agenda and emails from staff to confirm the meeting location.

Finally, Mr. Murray reported that if CHB Members' parking passes are nearing expiration, please notify staff to coordinate renewal.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting was reported to be November 27, 2023.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 2:04 p.m., the Cultural Heritage Board was adjourned.

Chair
Cultural Heritage Board

ATTEST:

Dillan Murray
Cultural Heritage Program Planner

Date