

Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board September 22, 2025, 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, September 22, 2025, at **1:15 p.m.** the Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board (CHB) will convene for a public meeting to be held at the Ventura County Government Center, Hall of Administration, 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009, Multipurpose Conference Room. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

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@venturacounty.gov. 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**
 - 3a. Vote to approve the September 22, 2025, Agenda
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - 4a. **Action:** Receive a presentation from Betsy J. Green, an experienced writer and historian, who will explore the dramatic history of local wildfires. Her presentation, "From Buckets to Bulldozers: Wildfires Then and Now," will compare the Great Forest Fires of 1917 with the Thomas Fire of 2017, offering insight into how fire response has evolved over the past century.

The presentation is the first part in the new Cultural Heritage Board guest speaker series, *Ventura County Chronicles: Fire, Freight & Freeways*.

5. CONTINUED ITEMS

None

6. 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. 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.

7. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

7a. Vote to approve the August 25, 2025, Meeting Minutes

8. REPORTS

8a. Board Member Reports

8b. CHB Program Updates from Staff

9. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held October 13, 2025.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board August 25, 2025, **Draft** Meeting Minutes

County of Ventura • Resource Management Agency

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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. CONVENE THE MEETING OF THE VENTURA COUNTY CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD**

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

CHB Members Present: Mike Winters (Chair), Tyson Cline, Sylvia Schnopp, Herbert Gooch, Gary Blum, Miguel Fernandez, and Anthony Angelini

CHB Members Absent: None

Staff Present:

Dillan Murray, Senior Planner, Ventura County Planning Division

Tricia Maier, Planning Programs Manager, Ventura County Planning Division

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

3a. Vote to approve the August 25, 2025, Agenda

Board Member Schnopp made a motion to approve the August 25, 2025, Agenda. Board Member Gooch seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0 (Board Member Angelini abstained).

3b. Vote to approve the June 23, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Board Member Cline made a motion to approve the June 23, 2025, Meeting Minutes. Board Member Gooch seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0 (Board Member Angelini abstained).

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

5. **CONTINUED ITEMS**

None

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

6a. **Location:** 7620 Telephone Road, Ventura, CA 93003 (unincorporated Ventura County) (Supervisorial District 1 – Lavere)

Action: A request to designate the Day Ranch House, formerly located at 7620 Telephone Road, Ventura, CA 93003 (unincorporated Ventura County), as Ventura County Point of Interest No. 16. (Case No. CH25-0034).

Disclosures: Board Member Cline disclosed that he had previously completed consulting work for the property owner and recused himself from Item 6a.

Presentation: Dillan Murray, staff, presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining the property location, background, historical significance, staff conclusions, and 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;
2. **FIND** that the Property Owner was given a 15-day notice in accordance with Ordinance Section 1366-2, and that the Property Owner has not objected to designation;
3. **FIND** that the former Day Ranch House meets County Point of Interest Criterion 1 as required by Ordinance Section 1367(c), and the additional standards required by Ordinance Section 1367-1 based on the substantial evidence in the staff report and all exhibits and attachments hereto; and
4. **ADOPT** CHB Resolution No. 2025-11 (Exhibit 3) approving the designation of the Day Ranch House, formerly located at 7620 Telephone Road, Ventura, CA 93003, as Ventura County Point of Interest No. 16.

Discussion and Deliberation:

Board Member Gooch inquired as to where the list of designated Ventura County Points of Interest is housed? Dillan Murray, staff, noted that the list is available on the Ventura County Cultural Heritage Program webpage and designated sites are identified on the interactive Landmarks and Points of Interest map accessible from that webpage.

Board Member Fernandez inquired as to whether a plaque would be placed at the property? Dillan Murray, staff, stated that it would be up to the property owner whether to pay for a plaque and install it, but they are not required to do so. Staff will share the recommended plaque template as well as potential vendors with the property owner.

Board Member Anthony inquired as to whether the Day Ranch house was ever designated previously? Dillan Murray, staff, stated that it was considered an eligible historic resource, but never officially designated. This is because it is typically up to property owners whether to pursue landmark designation. Board Member Anthony expressed his upset at how the house previously fell into disrepair and noted a desire for outreach to owners of eligible historic properties.

Board Member Fernandez made a motion to adopt staff's recommended actions. Board Member Angelini seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0 (Board Member Cline abstained).

6b. Location: 12465 Foothill Road, Santa Paula, CA 93060 (unincorporated Ventura County) (Supervisory District 1 – Laverne)

Action: A request to designate the original Oliveland School, formerly located at 12465 Foothill Road, Santa Paula, CA 93060 (unincorporated Ventura County), as Ventura County Point of Interest No. 17. (Case No. CH25-0037).

Disclosures: None

Presentation: Dillan Murray, staff, presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining the property location, background, historical significance, staff conclusions, and 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;
2. **FIND** that the Property Owner was given a 15-day notice in accordance with Ordinance Section 1366-2, and that the Property Owner consents to designation;

3. **FIND** that the original Olivelihoods School meets County Point of Interest Criterion 1 as required by Ordinance Section 1367(c), and the additional standards required by Ordinance Section 1367-1 based on the substantial evidence in the staff report and all exhibits and attachments hereto; and
4. **ADOPT** CHB Resolution No. 2025-12 (Exhibit 3) approving the designation of the original Olivelihoods School, formerly located at 12465 Foothill Road, Santa Paula, CA 93060, as Ventura County Point of Interest No. 17.

Discussion and Deliberation:

Board Member Fernandez inquired as to whether a plaque would be placed at the property? Dillan Murray, staff, stated that it would be up to the property owner whether to pay for a plaque and install it, but they are not required to do so. Staff will share the recommended plaque template as well as potential vendors with the property owner.

Board Member Gooch noted his view that this designation could be a great opportunity for the school district or Limoneira Company to hold an event or acknowledgment regarding the history of the school.

Board Member Schnopp noted her personal history with the Soria family as civil rights proponents in Oxnard. Board Member Schnopp emphasized her view that it is important to look at history and fully acknowledge it in this way in order to move forward as a society.

Chair Winters stated that it is unfortunate nothing could have been done to preserve the original school building, but that it is important to record this information and tell these stories.

Board Member Fernandez made a motion to adopt staff's recommended actions. Board Member Schnopp seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

7. REPORTS

7a. Board Member Reports

Chair Winters thanked the Fair ad hoc committee for their work on the summer display.

Board Member Schnopp reported that Oxnard College is celebrating its 50th anniversary through a few upcoming events, including a presentation on the school's history on September 16th and the unveiling of a new mural on September 25th.

Board Member Fernandez reported that, unfortunately, neither the CHB nor the Plein Air Ventura County displays won a prize at this year's Fair, but that the handouts and brochures were popular with attendees.

Board Member Angelini emphasized the importance of the CHB Fair display and reported that the Simi Valley Film Festival will be held September 3-7, 2025, at Studio Movie Grill in Simi Valley. Among other films, the event will feature local Ventura County and Simi Valley filming projects.

7b. CHB Program Updates from Staff

Dillan Murray, staff, reported that the next expected hearing will be September 8th, if there are items to be reviewed.

Next, Mr. Murray thanked the Fair ad hoc committee members and Resource Management Agency IT staff in making the CHB Fair display a success.

Next, Mr. Murray reported that the guest lecture dates have been set across the next fiscal year and were reported out so that Board Members may add them to their calendars. As a reminder, these will be held as part of regular CHB meetings and are scheduled for September 22nd, December 8th, February 23rd, and May 11th. The first speaker will be author and lecturer Betsy Green, who will present on historical forest fires in the county, up to and including the 2017 Thomas Fire.

Next, Mr. Murray reported that based on the CHB's previous feedback, staff will be planning to hold another off-site meeting this year or early next year. One potential idea is to hold a meeting in Piru, possibly in conjunction with a site visit to a historic property in the area. If Board Members have any ideas or requests for future off-site meeting locations, they were asked to contact staff.

Finally, Mr. Murray reported that the CHB was invited to attend Ventura's Olivas Adobe Rancho San Miguel Days event. The idea is that the CHB booth would be installed at this community event (tent, table, and chairs

provided) and attended by any volunteers among the CHB. The event is on Sunday, September 14th from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., and will feature music, dancing, storytelling, games, and hands-on activities that celebrate the rich history and heritage of our pioneers and indigenous peoples. If Board Members are interested in attending and helping with the booth, they were asked to contact staff.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled hearing will be held on September 8, 2025, if there are items to be reviewed.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 1:54 p.m., the Cultural Heritage Board was adjourned.

Mike Winters, Chair
Cultural Heritage Board

ATTEST:

Dillan Murray
Cultural Heritage Program Planner

Date