



Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board

April 13, 2026, Meeting Agenda

COUNTY of VENTURA
Resource Management Agency

County of Ventura • Resource Management Agency

800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009-1740 • (805) 654-2478 • rma.venturacounty.gov/divisions/planning/

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, April 13, 2026, 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 AND PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**
 - 3a. Vote to approve the April 13, 2026, Agenda
 - 3a. Vote to approve the February 23, 2026, 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. 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. **Location:** The Thacher School, 5025 Thacher Road, Ojai, CA 93023 (Supervisory District 1 – LaVere)

Action: A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness (Cultural Heritage Ordinance §1371) for the demolition of four existing historic tennis courts and their replacement with a new approximately 5,300-square-foot Health & Wellness Center at the north portion of the existing court area at The Thacher School, located at 5025 Thacher Road, Ojai, CA 93023. The proposed project also includes the development of a new landscaped open space at the south portion of the site to support passive recreational uses for students, the construction of new stairs and pathways connecting the improvement area to existing buildings and outdoor use areas in the vicinity, and one new van-accessible/ambulance parking space off the existing service road at the north end of the project area. The request includes review and comment by the Cultural Heritage Board on the proposed project in accordance with the County of Ventura Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, Section 13 (Historical Resources), Section 13.3.2 (Impact Analysis). (Case No. CH26-0018).

6b. **Action:** Review, provide comments, and direct staff to forward the County of Ventura Cultural Heritage Board Certified Local Government Annual Report for 2024–2025 to the California State Office of Historic Preservation.

6c. **Action:** Discuss and determine whether to form an ad hoc committee to coordinate the Cultural Heritage Board booth at the Ventura County Fair during summer 2026.

7. **REPORTS**

7a. Board Member Reports

7b. CHB Program Updates from Staff

8. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held April 27, 2026.

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 via email at Dillan.Murray@venturacounty.gov. 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

February 23, 2026, **Draft Meeting Minutes**

County of Ventura • Resource Management Agency

800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009-1740 • (805) 654-2478 • rma.venturacounty.gov/divisions/planning/

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. **1:20 P.M. CONVENE THE MEETING OF THE VENTURA COUNTY CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD**

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

CHB Members Present: Miguel Fernandez (Acting Chair), Sylvia Schnopp, Gary Blum, and Anthony Angelini

CHB Members Absent: Mike Winters, Tyson Cline, and Herbert Gooch

Staff Present:

Dillan Murray, Senior Planner, Ventura County Planning Division

Tricia Maier, Planning Programs Manager, Ventura County Planning Division

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

3a. Vote to approve the February 23, 2026, Agenda

Board Member Schnopp made a motion to approve the February 23, 2026, Agenda. Board Member Blum seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

4. **GUEST PRESENTATION**

Action: Receive a presentation from retired educator and historic interpreter Connie Korenstein, who will bring to life the fascinating story of the Port of Hueneme, from Thomas Bard's 1871 vision of an agricultural shipping wharf through the ups and downs of his son Richard's struggle to build out the grand port his father envisioned. The presentation is the next part in the Cultural Heritage Board guest speaker series, *Ventura County Chronicles: Fire, Freight & Freeways*.

Presentation: Acting Chair Fernandez and Board Member Blum introduced Ms. Korenstein and her assistant, Mr. Ernie Morrison, and noted that the session is the next part in the Cultural Heritage Board's speaker series titled *Ventura County Chronicles: Fire, Freight & Freeways*. The intent of the series is to bring to life the important events, influential people, and key infrastructure developments that have shaped Ventura County's history. Ms. Korenstein presented a PowerPoint presentation describing the history of the Port of Hueneme and the legacy of the Bard family.

BREAK

RECONVENED THE MEETING OF THE VENTURA COUNTY CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD

5. NEW BUSINESS

- 5a. **Action:** Receive a presentation from Miguel Rodriguez, Community Relations and Workforce Development Director for The Port of Hueneme, on The Port's efforts to design and construct a full-size bronze statue of Richard Bard at Hueneme Wharf Plaza. In addition, Mr. Henry Travers Newton, a descendant of the Bard family, will present on his efforts to further recognize the influential family.

Presentation: Acting Chair Fernandez introduced Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Newton and noted that this item came forward at the request of the speakers who wished to address the Cultural Heritage Board and provide information relevant to its purview. Mr. Rodriguez presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining The Port's efforts to design and construct a full-size bronze statue of Richard Bard. The unveiling ceremony will be scheduled in the future. Mr. Newton presented a PowerPoint presentation with information on the Thomas R. and Mary Bard Memorial in the City of Port Hueneme and his efforts to improve public access to the site.

Discussion:

Acting Chair Fernandez inquired whether Mr. Newton had approached the Navy for assistance? Mr. Newton stated that he had, and that local Navy leadership were supportive of increasing public access to the Bard Mansion itself, but that staff turnover was a challenge in making any progress.

Tricia Maier, staff, noted that it would be necessary to first determine who owns the memorial property in order to approach the owner with any recommendations the CHB may have.

Acting Chair Fernandez inquired whether Port Hueneme is a contract city with the County of Ventura for cultural heritage services? Tricia Maier, staff, responded in the affirmative, although city staff have not reached out for such services in a number of years.

Board Member Angelini noted his view that the addition of parking spaces is not the only way to improve visibility of and accessibility to the memorial.

Acting Chair Fernandez noted his view that the area could potentially benefit from the development of a historical walking tour if parking is not feasible at the memorial itself. Instead, parking lots in the vicinity could be utilized. Acting Chair Fernandez and Board Member Schnopp noted their desire to work with Mr. Newton to privately visit the site to better understand the location.

6. CONTINUED ITEMS

None

7. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

7a. Vote to approve the February 9, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Board Member Angelini made a motion to approve the February 9, 2026, Meeting Minutes. Board Member Schnopp seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

9. REPORTS

9a. Board Member Reports

Board Member Angelini and Board Member Schnopp noted their appreciation for the guest presentation.

Acting Chair Fernandez thanked Tricia Maier for her service and wished her well in her future role at the City of Port Hueneme.

9b. CHB Program Updates from Staff

Dillan Murray, staff, reported that the next expected hearing will be March 9, 2026, if there are items to be reviewed.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled hearing was reported to be March 9, 2026, if there are items to be reviewed.

11. ADJOURNMENT

At 3:12 p.m., the Cultural Heritage Board was adjourned.

ATTEST:

Dillan Murray, Secretary

Date