



Ventura County Special Districts Association

VCSDA AGENDA

Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 5:30p.m.
In-Person Meeting @ UWCD Boardroom
1701 N Lombard Street, Oxnard CA 93030

VENTURA COUNTY SPECIAL DISTRICTS

MEMBERS

- Bell Canyon Community Services District
- Calleguas Municipal Water District
- Camarillo Health Care District
- Camrosa Water District
- Casitas Municipal Water District
- Channel Islands Beach Community Services District
- Conejo Recreation & Park District
- Hidden Valley Municipal Water District
- Ojai Valley Sanitary District
- Oxnard Harbor District
- Pleasant Valley County Water District
- Pleasant Valley Recreation & Parks District
- Rancho Simi Recreation & Parks District
- Saticoy Sanitary District
- Triunfo Water and Sanitation District
- United Water Conservation District
- Ventura River Water District
- Ventura Port District

To access the meeting via Zoom, click on this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82815724536?pwd=dDVZTERiZDUxOHYwMVFIc1B6cG5WQT09>

Meeting ID: 828 1572 4536 Passcode: VCSDA

For those attending the meeting in person, dinner will consists of: tossed garden salad with ranch or Italian dressing, entree, side dish starch, side dish veg, roll with butter, and includes a beverage and dessert for a fee of **\$22.00 per person** (pay at the door)

1. Call to Order by President - (5:30 pm)
2. Flag Salute
3. Welcome and Introductions/Roll Call - President Dandy
4. Approval of Minutes from December 7, 2021
5. Guest Speaker— Ventura County Supervisor Linda Parks
6. Presentation of Director of the Year Award and General Manager of the Year Award
7. Treasurer’s Report—Brian Pendleton
8. Reports and Announcements
 - CSDA Report - Elaine Magner (Coastal Network Board Member)
 - CSDA Update - Charlotte Hollifield
 - Legislative Update -Elaine Freeman
 - LAFCo Update-Elaine Freeman
 - County Oversight Update - Mike Mishler
 - Other Announcements
9. New Business/ Member Announcements
 - 9.A Consideration of donation to SDFL scholarship fund to present at CSDA Annual Conference in August—Motion
10. Adjournment to next meeting on April 5, 2022

President—Bruce E. Dandy
Vice President—Al Fox

Treasurer—Brian Pendleton
Secretary—Kris Sofley



**Ventura County Special
Districts Association**

**VCSDA
MEETING
MINUTES**

*Approved
Minutes*

Approved: _____
Date: _____
Motion: _____
Second: _____

**Tuesday, December 7, 2021
In-Person/Videoconference Via Zoom**

**VENTURA COUNTY
SPECIAL DISTRICTS**

MEMBERS

- Bell Canyon Community Services
- Calleguas Municipal Water
- Camarillo Health Care
- Camrosa Water
- Casitas Municipal Water
- Channel Islands Beach Community Services
- Conejo Recreation & Park
- Hidden Valley Municipal Water
- Ojai Valley Sanitary
- Port of Hueneme/Oxnard Harbor
- Pleasant Valley County Water
- Pleasant Valley Recreation & Parks
- Rancho Simi Recreation & Parks
- Saticoy Sanitary
- Triunfo Water and Sanitation District
- United Water Conservation
- Ventura County Resource Conservation
- Ventura Regional Sanitation
- Ventura River Water
- Ventura Port

The December 7, 2021 meeting of the Ventura County Special District Association was held in person at United Water Conservation District's Boardroom in Oxnard and via Zoom videoconference.

1. and 2. CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE:

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by President Bruce Dandy, who asked Director Elaine Magner to lead everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL: President Dandy
President Dandy welcomed everyone to the meeting and then called roll:

Members in attendance included:

- Richard Levy** and **Eric Wolf** - Bell Canyon Community Services
- Charlotte Holifield**, CSDA
- Raul Avila** - Calleguas Municipal Water
- Martin Daly** and **Kara Ralston** - Camarillo Health Care
- Al Fox** - Camrosa Water
- George Lange** - Conejo Recreation and Park
- Elaine Magner**, **Mark Malloy** and **Mary Otten**- Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park
- Mary Anne Rooney**, **Letitia Austin** and **Michelle Kinnun** - Port of Hueneme/Oxnard Harbor
- Elaine Freeman** and **Kathleen O'Brien** - Rancho Simi Recreation and Park
- Janna Orkney** - Triunfo Water and Sanitation
- Bruce Dandy**, **Zachary Plummer** and **Kris Sofley** - United Water Conservation
- Brian Pendleton** -Ventura Harbor District
- Mike Mishler**

Members of the Public participating in the meeting included:

- David L. Fleisch, chair, Ventura County Civic Alliance
- Kai Luoma, executive officer, Ventura County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)

4. Approval of Minutes from Board Meeting of October 5, 2021

Motion to approve the October 5, 2021 Minutes: Elaine Freeman; Second, George Lange. Voice vote: all in favor, unanimous; any opposed, none; any abstaining, none. Motion carries unanimously

5. Guest Speaker - Dave Fleisch, chair of Ventura County Civic Alliance

President Dandy introduced Mr. Fleisch to the room and virtual participants.
Continues...

President—Bruce Dandy
Vice President—Al Fox

Treasurer—
Secretary to the Board—Kris Sofley

Mr. Fleisch began by distributing copies of the 2021 State of the Region Report compiled by Ventura County Civic Alliance. He also provided additional copies for those participating virtually and the Clerk said she would mail them out to anyone requesting a copy after the meeting.

Mr. Fleisch also had a powerpoint presentation (see attached slides) highlighting key elements of the 2021 report. He explained that the Ventura County Civic Alliance focused on the three Es—economy, environment and social equity and that the annual report was an unbiased look at the County. He said he had been on the Board of the VCCA for six years and has served as the Chair for the past three years. He told the group that the first report was published in 2003, and that the VCCA has published a report every two years since 2013. The report considers 10 different domains, consistently tracks the same information over time so that you get a very good picture of the current state as well as progression or decline of specific areas within the County.

Mr. Fleisch said that in reviewing key statistics of the County, from 2000 to 2019, the median age has increased by four years and from 2017 to 2019, the County actual experienced negative population growth, the first time in Ventura County's history. He pointed out that, on page 12 of the report, the crop report is from the Ag Commissioner's report and looks at total crop value. The report also looks at Community Engagement, Voter Statistics, Non Profits, the Economy (page 33) which demonstrated an impact from Covid and pointed out that from 2008-2010 a period of "recession" showed unemployment at 11% in the County, and that in April 2020, that number had risen to 14.5%. On page 37 of the report, the County's GDP shows that we haven't fully recovered from the recession (2008-2012). On page 41, visitor spending in Ventura County is up, but primarily in camping, outdoor activities and second home purchases. On page 46, public school enrollment is down as is community college enrollment (page 52). Under Land Use and Housing, Mr. Fleisch said it is "crazy," with housing prices continuing to climb. He said the median home price in Ventura County went from \$455,418 in 2003 to \$840,000 in 2021 and that apartment rentals for an average two-bedroom went up \$1,000 from 2013 to 2021, currently at about \$2500 per month with a 1.37% vacancy rate. He also looked at public safety, social services, homelessness and transportation.

George Lange asked if veterans were included in the homelessness figures and Mr. Fleisch said that they were reported in a separate figure. Kate O'Brien asked if he had a percentage figure, like one-third of homeless are vets. Mr. Fleisch said that depends on how you define homeless, as many people say with other family members or friends or live in their vehicles and don't consider themselves as being homeless in the traditional sense. Kara Ralston asked about food aid and Food Share programs, reporting that her health care district delivered meals and saw a spike in need at 7,000 meals per month, whereas now its around 5,500 meals per month, but there's a hidden hunger among older adults that often goes unreported. Mr. Fleisch said that going forward, those figures will be looked at in more detail so an accurate prediction can be made regarding need. Mary Anne Rooney echoed Kara Ralston's comments, saying the number of families the Harbor District feeds continues to increase. Brian Pendleton asked about the unemployment rate in Ventura County (page 33) state that unemployment was at 6% in September 2021 and was curious as those doing data gathering had any sense as to why Ventura County is lagging behind because Ventura Harbor is trying to find workers and nobody is applying. Mr. Fleisch said that's a great question and responded by saying that employment sectors in Ventura County, the growing sectors anyway, tend to be lower paying jobs. President Dandy said that public agencies and special services areas need help with information to better project needs in the future. Mr. Fleisch said that consistent data can help in predictions, like how water impacts housing development, drought impacts farming and an aging population impacts health care. But that the report is a great way to see what services are or will be needed. He said the VCCA is also working to make the data searchable online and encouraged everyone to help the organization continue the dialogue. Mr. Pendleton thanked Mr. Fleisch for the great presentation and his service to the County.

Continued...

President Dandy then introduced Mary Ann Rooney, a commissioner with Port Hueneme/Oxnard Harbor who wanted to discuss drafting a letter on behalf of the VCSDA in opposition to proposed legislation that would alter or amend Government Code Section 56133 regarding cities or districts providing new or extended service outside of its boundaries by contract or agreement only if it first receives written approval from the local agency formation commission (LAFCO). President Dandy then introduced Kai Luoma, executive officer, Ventura County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo), whom he had invited to the meeting. President Dandy also explained that the drafted legislation was initiated by San Diego and is still being crafted and that Ventura County LAFCo had agreed in concept to the proposed legislation unanimously. President Dandy then asked Commissioner Rooney to offer her comments and suggestions. She introduced Leticia Austin, also from Port Hueneme/Oxnard Harbor who presented information on the proposed legislation and the recommendation that the VCSDA oppose the legislation as Commissioner Rooney and the other Harbor Commissioners were recommending in a letter to CSDA CEO Neil McCormick (see attached letter) Commissioner Rooney said that the current law doesn't need amending, and that LAFCo needs to educate constituents. She also clarified that in March of 2021, when the draft language was first discussed, it was approved in concept only, but after further investigation, she is advocating that CSDA oppose the legislation and not support or co-sponsor LAFCo's position. She shared the Port Hueneme/Oxnard Harbor's letter and encouraged other Districts to send letters of opposition as well.

The membership had a robust discussion regarding the proposed legislation. Mr. Luoma explained that it was the San Diego LAFCo that had requested support from Ventura LAFCo and the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions was sponsoring the proposed legislation. There was more discussion regarding the current and/or future impact of the proposed legislation. Kara Ralston said her only issue was having a single point of authority and asked Mr. Luoma if LAFCo has been using one single authority. Commissioner Rooney said that CSDA and legislative representatives said the change is inconsistent with the application of the law that one person making a decision without justification raises serious concerns. She said this is not a clarification of authority but rather an extension of authority. Eric Wolf added that the issue is LAFCo calls the proposed legislation streamlining and adding efficiency but in reality its too much authority in one individual and there's no information on how you could appeal that one person's decision. Elaine Freeman said it is intended to be a centralized decision making process but is not spelled out. You could go to the Commission, but there needs to be a clear appeal process in language and policy. Raul Avila added that it is not good to put sole decision making power in one individual and that he is NOT for this legislation.

Commissioner Rooney made a motion for VCSDA to issue a letter to CSDA opposing the proposed LAFCo legislation; Second, Briand Pendleton. President Dandy said there at 18 member agencies and 11 agencies present for the meeting so each agency will get one vote on the proposed motion to send a letter from the VCSDA to CSDA that will state the chapter's opposition to the proposed legislation. At the end of the vote, six agencies votes yes, send the letter of opposition; four voted to abstain and one member left before voting. Simple majority of six to four in favor of sending a letter of opposition. President Dandy asked Commissioner Rooney if she and her staff would draft a letter for his signature.

Continues...

6. Treasurer's Report— Mr. Pendleton stated that he had three sets of reports included in the agenda packet for tonight's meeting, covering the months of September, October and November. He also added that the bookkeeper has prepared the 2019 tax returns and is waiting for acceptance of the N90 form.

7. Reports and Announcements

- CSDA Update - Charlotte Hollifield reported that CSDA is seeking presentation proposals; the GM, Board Secretary and annual conference will all be in person in 2022. All webinar participation is free and 13,023 have participated statewide. Board members handbooks have been revised.

- Legislative Update -Elaine Freeman reported that the legislative committee is pulling proposals together; Katherine Stewart, who was appointed to the Committee a year ago resigns effective January 2022. The position expires the end of 2022 and remains vacant. There will be an announcement in April for anyone interested in applying. CSDA Board election in August. She also reported technical difficulties with the last legislative meeting. She'll receive a proposal at the next committee meeting in January and she'll bring it back to the chapter meeting in February.

- LAFCo Update-Elaine Freeman reported technical difficulties in November that impeded the discussion of the major annexation of Oxnard and Pleasant Valley, systems at the County were not working so the meeting was continued to December 15.. There will be a review of the sphere of influence of Camarillo Health District, in March Bell Canyon service review.

- County Oversight Update - Mike Mishler reported that preliminary review of successor agencies, administration of budgets and find revenue for January, down to the last seven properties. "Last and Final" means no more annual revenue, just make Bond payments and reduce the number of agencies left in the process.

8. New Business/ Member Announcements — Commissioner Rooney reminded everyone of the Santa to the Sea Race on Sunday at 7:30am; Elaine Magner invited everyone to attend the Pleasant Valley Holiday Parade at 10am and Brian Pendleton was promoting the Winter Wonderland at Ventura Harbor and reminded all that the Parade of Lights would take place next week.

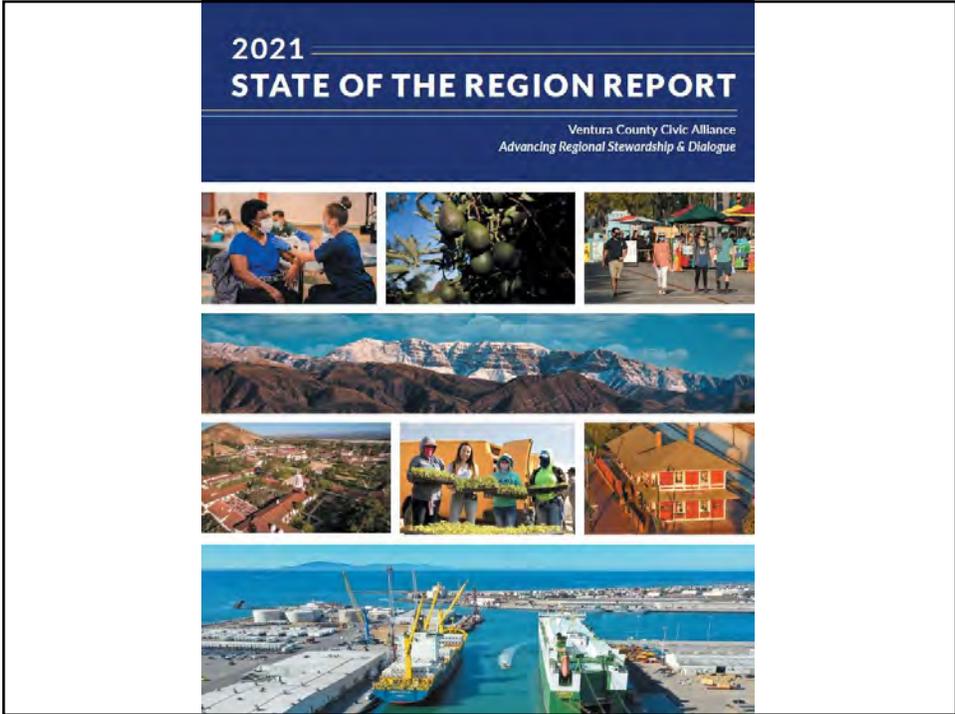
9. ADJOURNMENT TO NEXT MEETING—Tuesday, February 1, 2022

President Dandy wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and a safe and happy holiday season and adjourned the meeting at 7:16p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Kris Sofley

Kris Sofley, Secretary to VCSDA



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TITLE SPONSOR



Ventura County Civic Alliance | 2021 State of the Region Report

3

DOMAIN SPONSORS




Ventura County Civic Alliance | 2021 State of the Region Report

4

DOMAIN SPONSORS

CENTER FOR ECONOMICS
OF SOCIAL ISSUES

California
Lutheran
University



Channel Islands

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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DOMAIN SPONSORS



COUNTY of VENTURA

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6

KEY STATISTICS

MEDIAN AGE

2019: 38.1
2017: 37.5
2015: 37.1
2013: 36.6
2011: 36.2
2009: 36.1
2008: 34.2

INCOME (2019)

Percent of Residents below the Poverty Level: 8.9%

Per Capita Income: \$38,595

Median Household Income: \$88,131

Median Family Income: \$99,612

Cost of Preschool Child care ages 2 - 5 years: \$11,253

Household Income includes all households, regardless of size. Family Income only includes households with two or more persons related through blood, marriage or adoption.

COMPUTERS AND INTERNET USE (2019)

Households with a computer: 92.70%

Households with broadband internet: 88.20%

POPULATION

2019: 847,263
2017: 847,834
2015: 840,833
2000: 753,197

High School Diploma or Higher, Educational Achievement, Age 25+: 85.0%

Bachelor's Degree or Higher, Educational Achievement, Age 25+: 33.8%

Number of Veterans: 39,781

Persons per Household: 3.09

Persons per Square Mile: 459.7

Land Area (2010): 1,843 sq. miles

Acres of Built-Up Land (2018): 105,449

Population by Cities in Ventura County With Table of Percentage Under 18 and Percentage 65 Plus (2015, 2017, 2019)

City	2015	2017	2019
Camarillo	66,495	67,158	68,122
Fillmore	8,578	8,529	8,644
Moorpark	18,327	18,060	18,372
Ojai	7,487	7,994	7,504
Oxnard	201,895	207,152	208,252
Port Hueneume	22,258	23,166	23,166
Santa Paula	8,144	20,246	20,078
Simi Valley	124,000	124,448	123,442
Thousand Oaks	126,460	126,956	127,872
Ventura	104,879	118,152	109,652
Unincorporated	46,200	48,549	48,528

Age Group	2015	2017	2019
Under 18 (2019)	20.7%	27.5%	23.6%
65 Plus (2019)	20.8%	12.8%	13.4%

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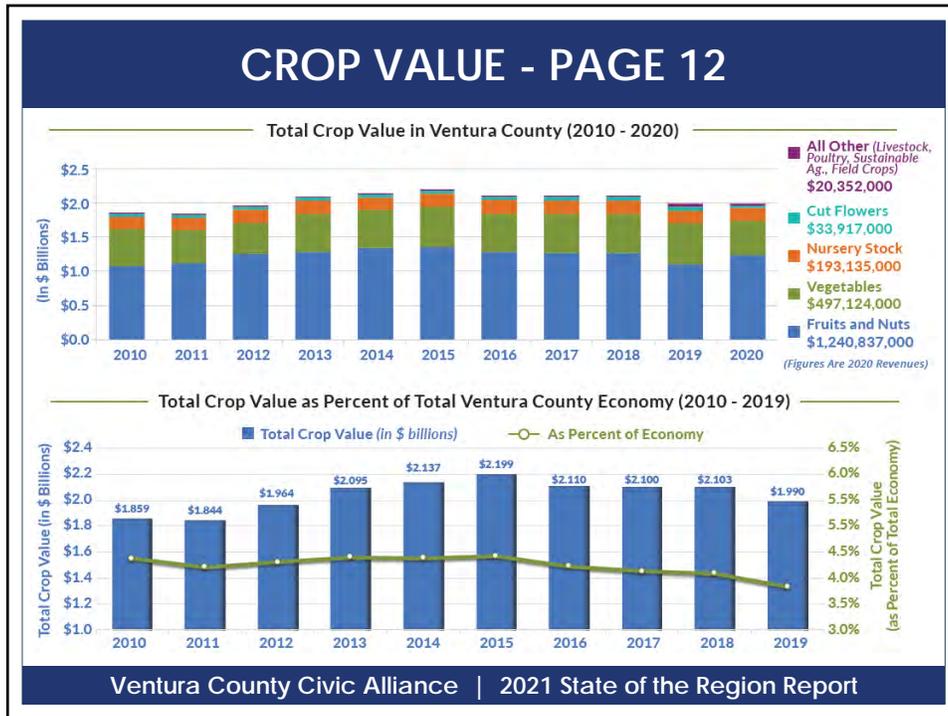
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2021 STATE OF THE REGION REPORT

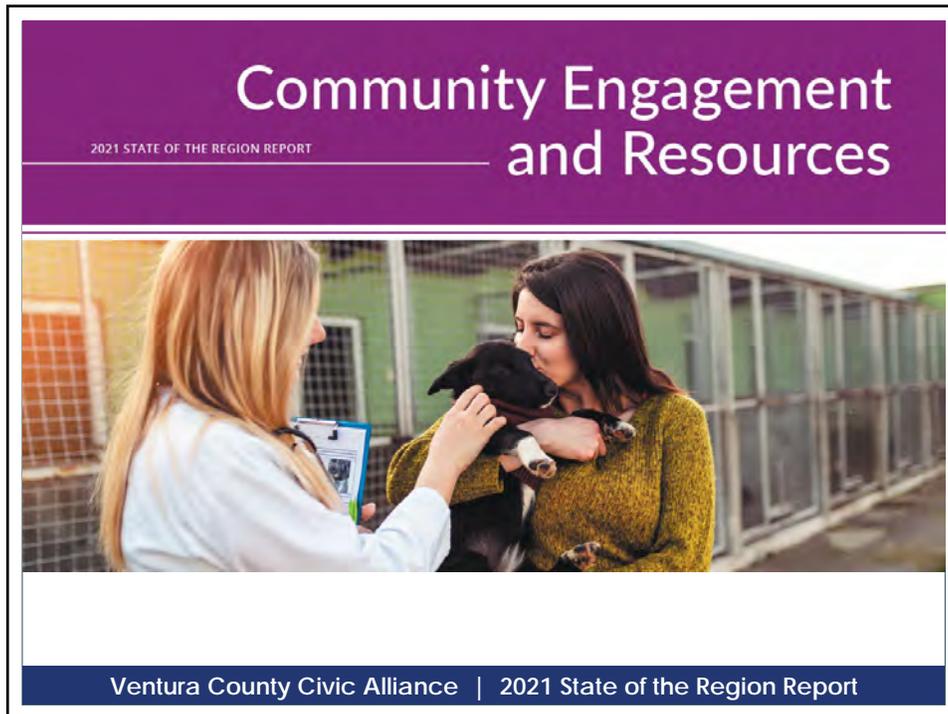
Agriculture

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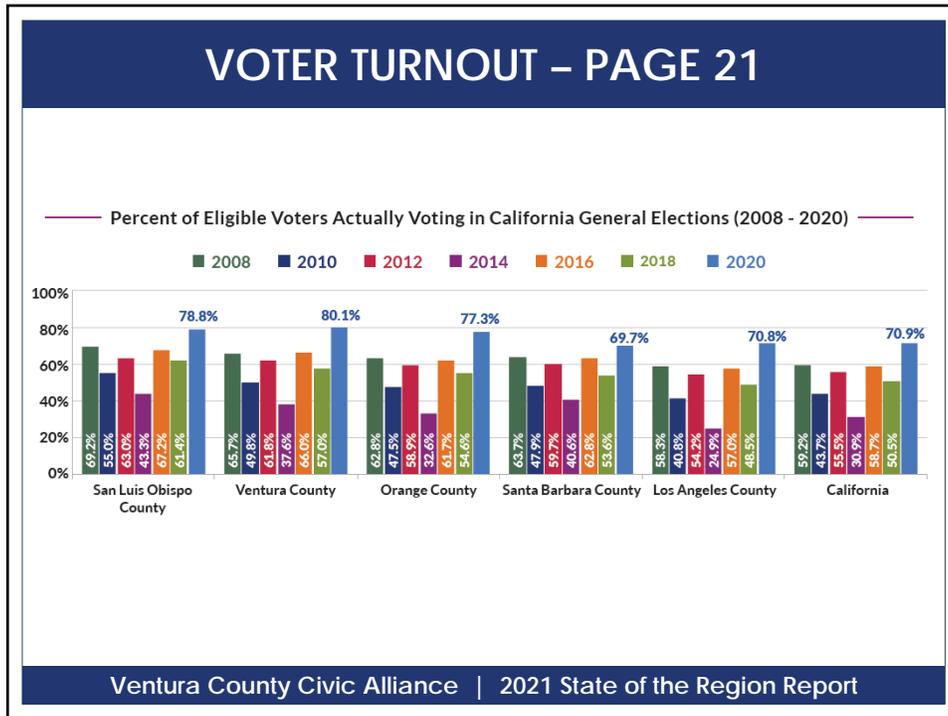
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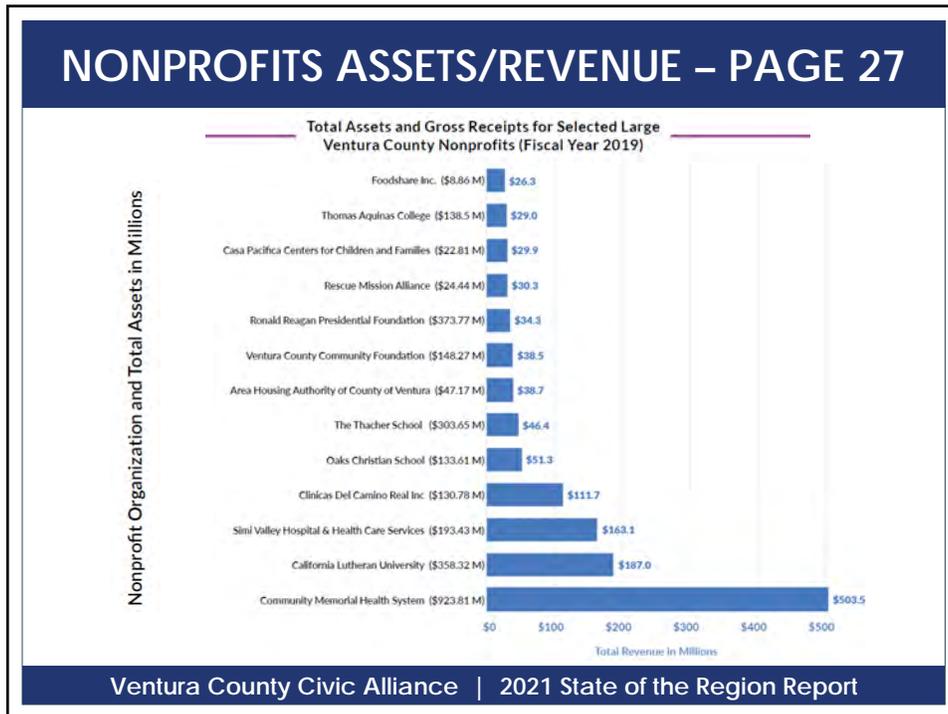
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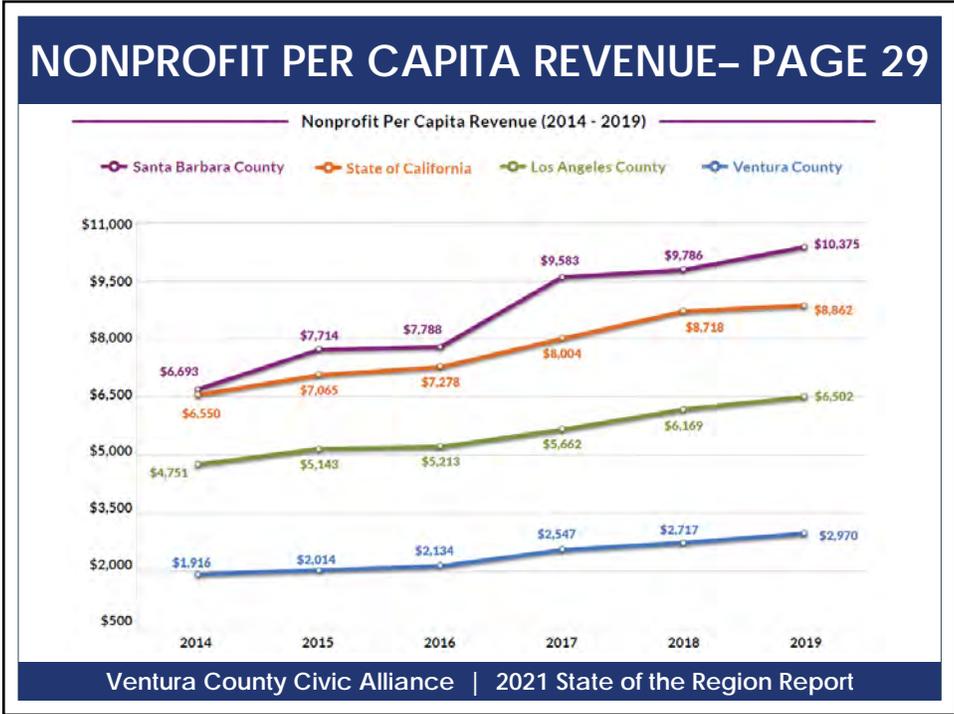
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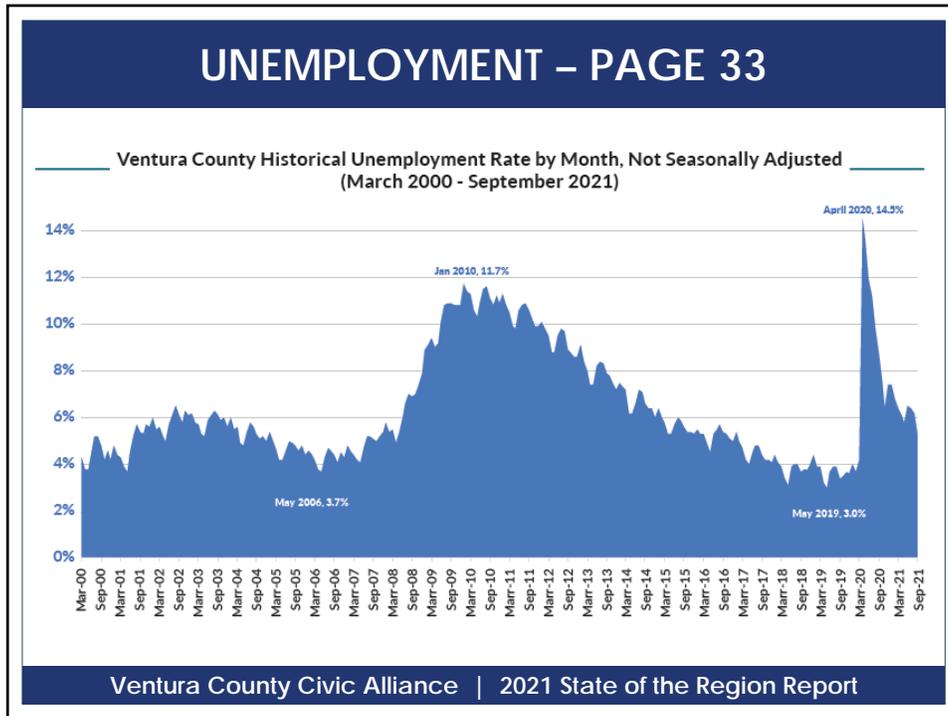
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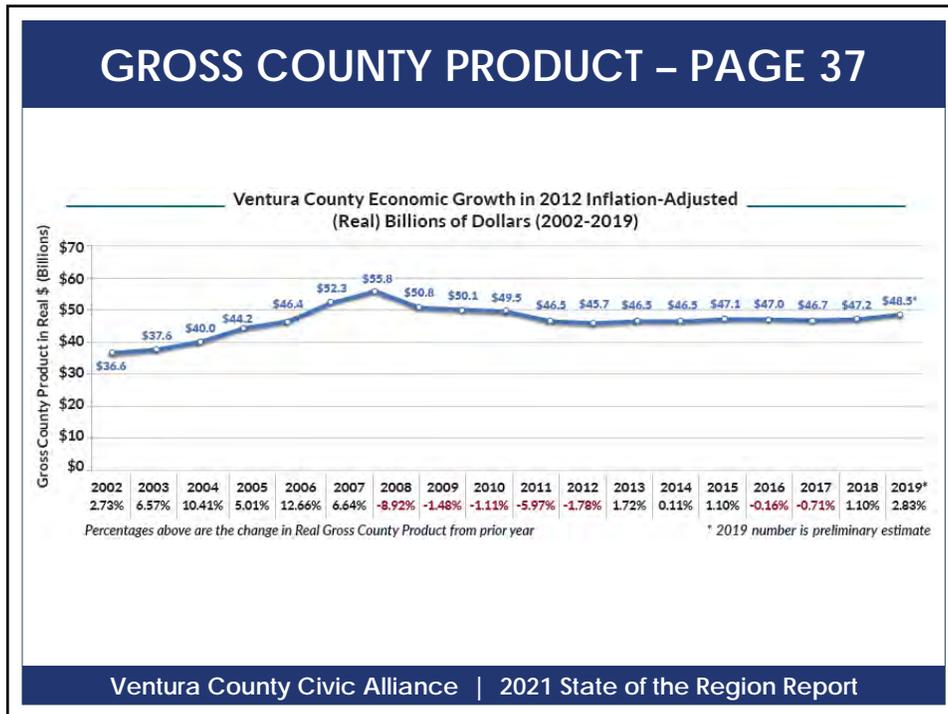
Economy

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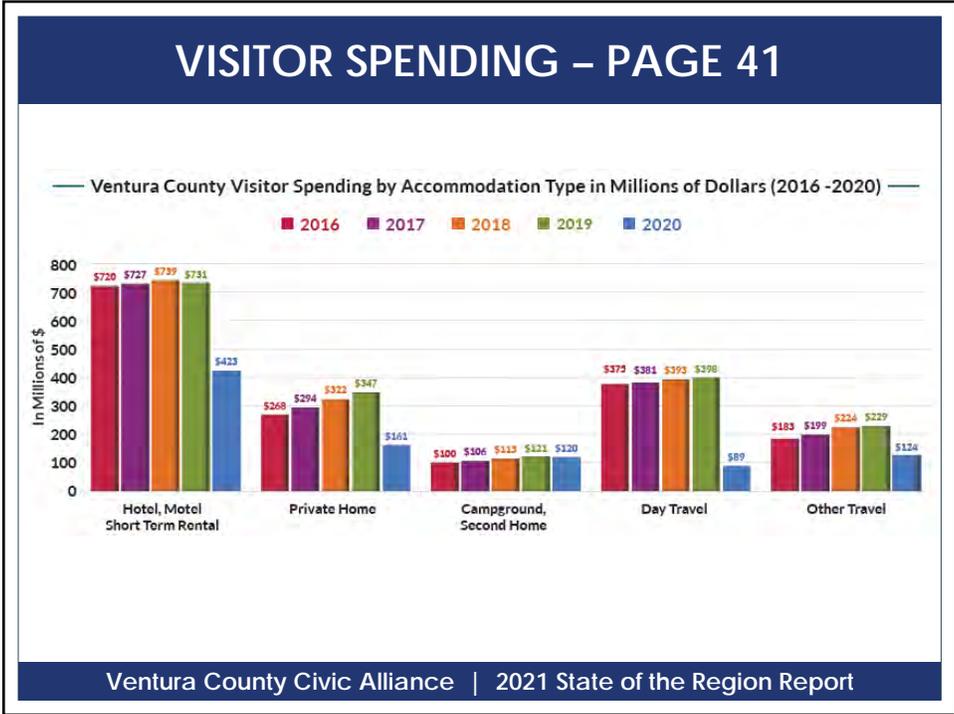
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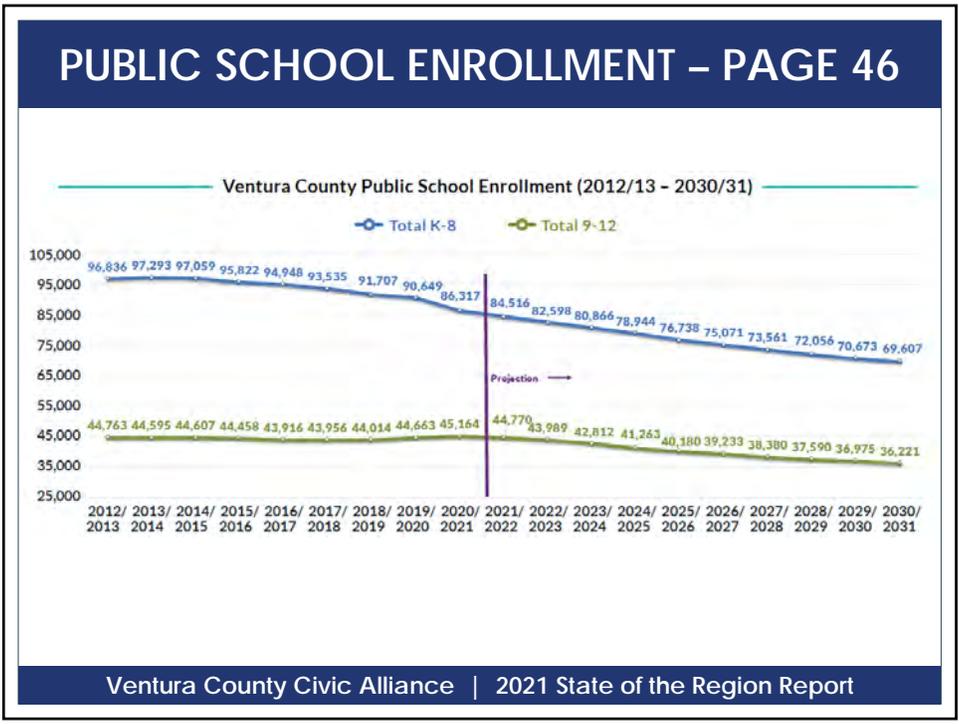
2021 STATE OF THE REGION REPORT

Education

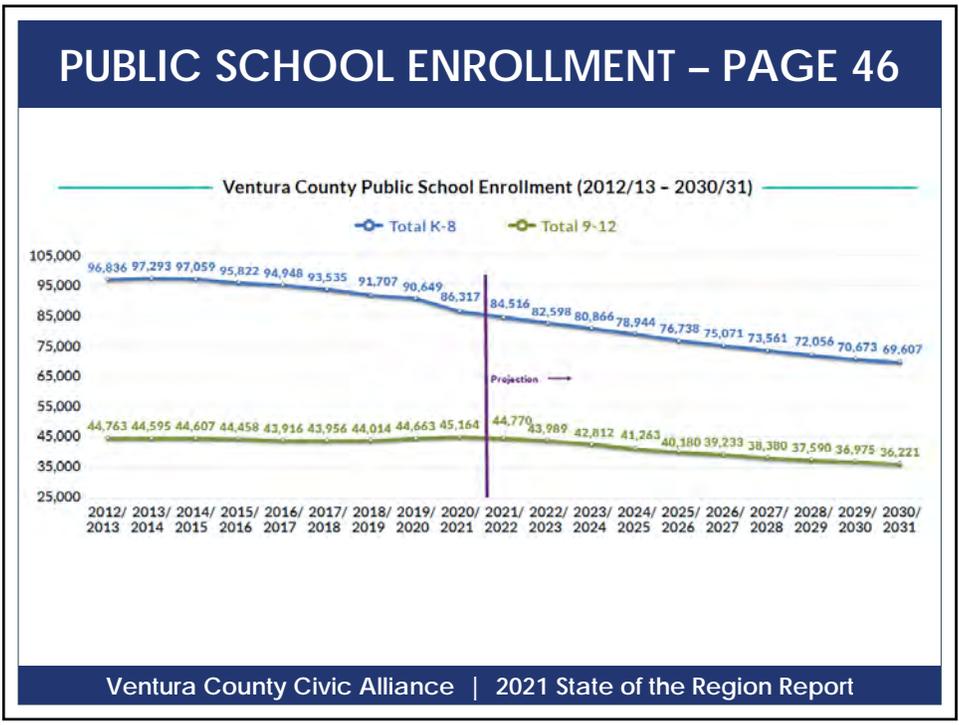



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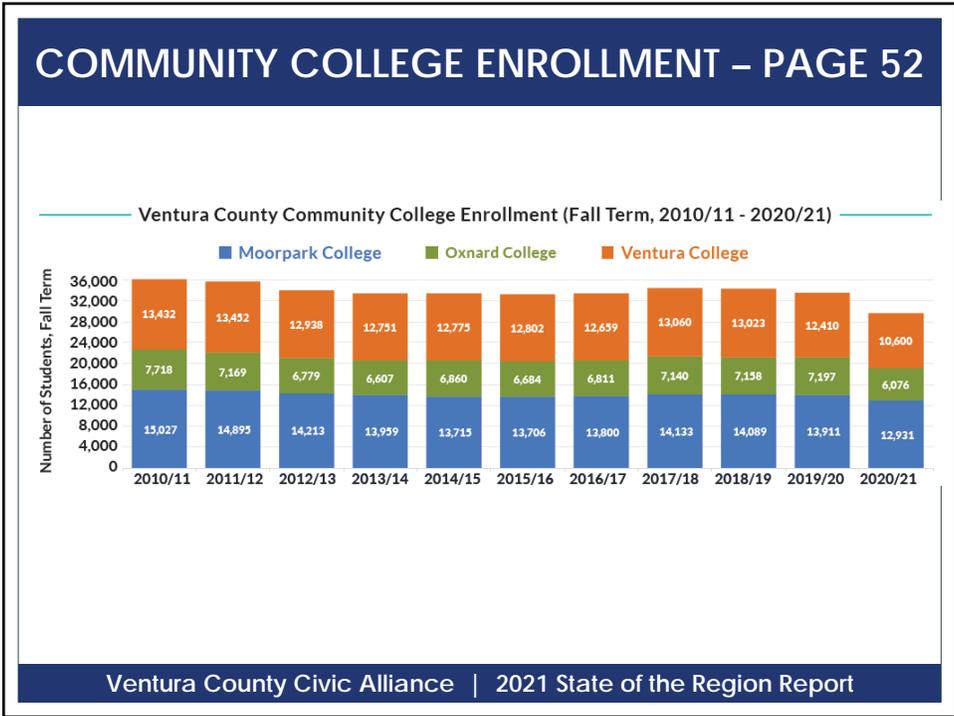
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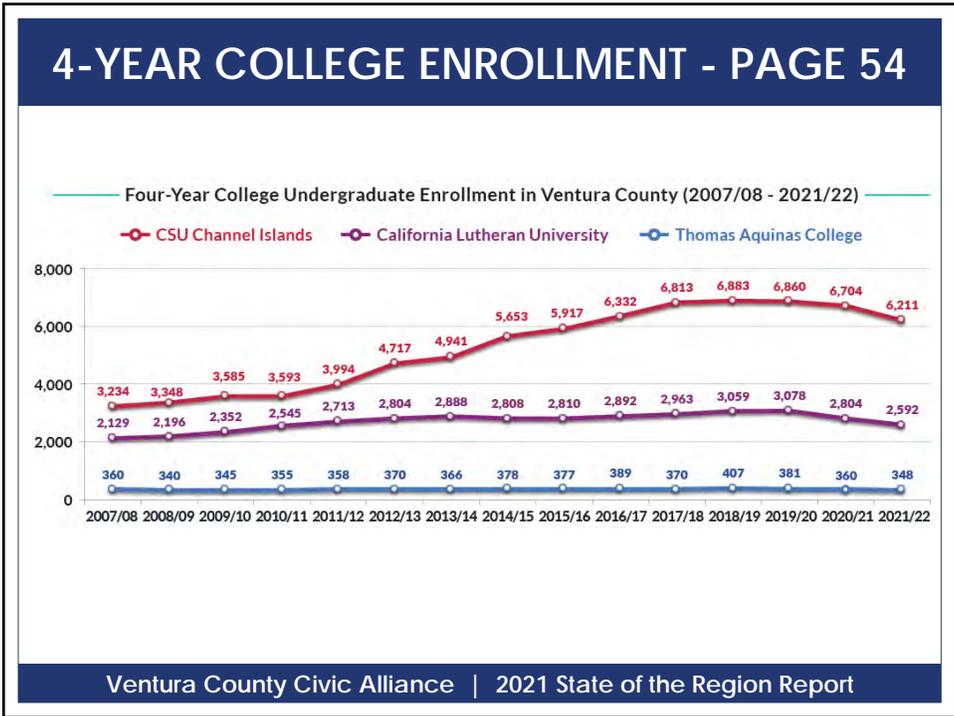
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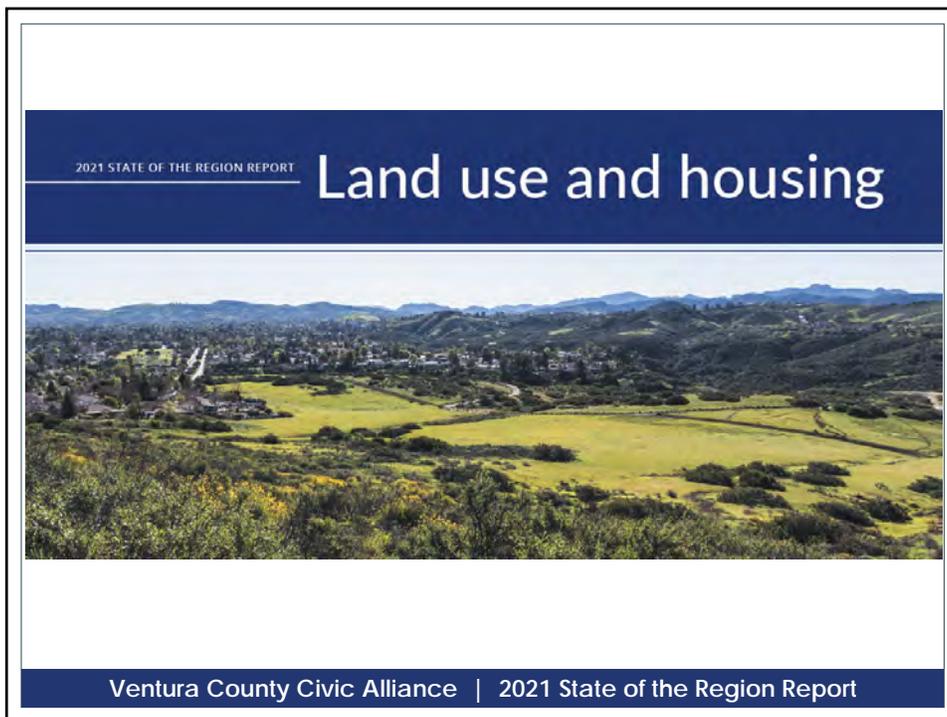
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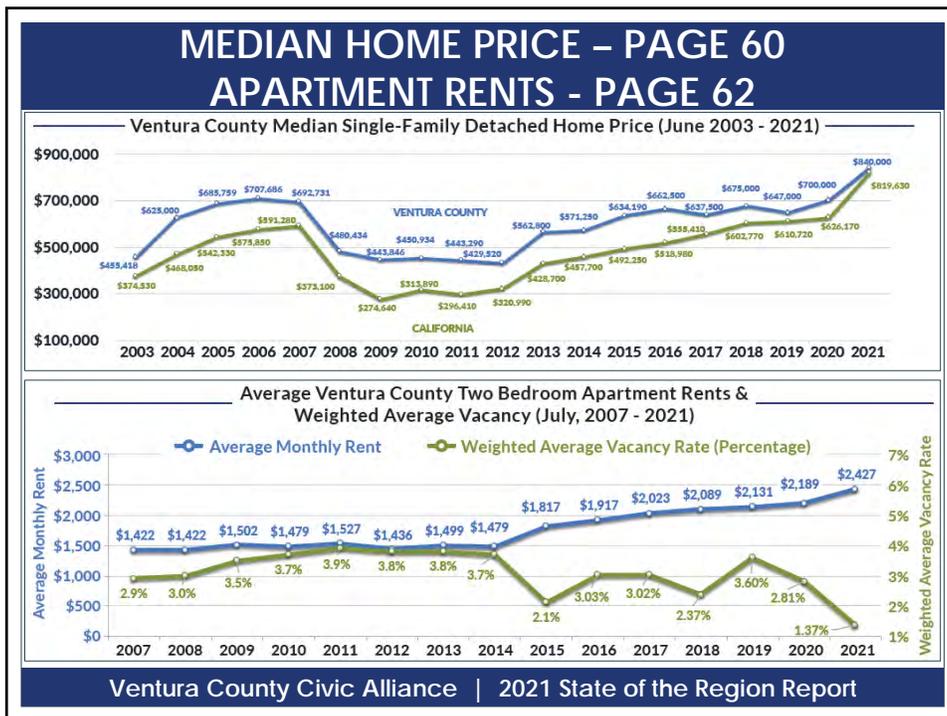
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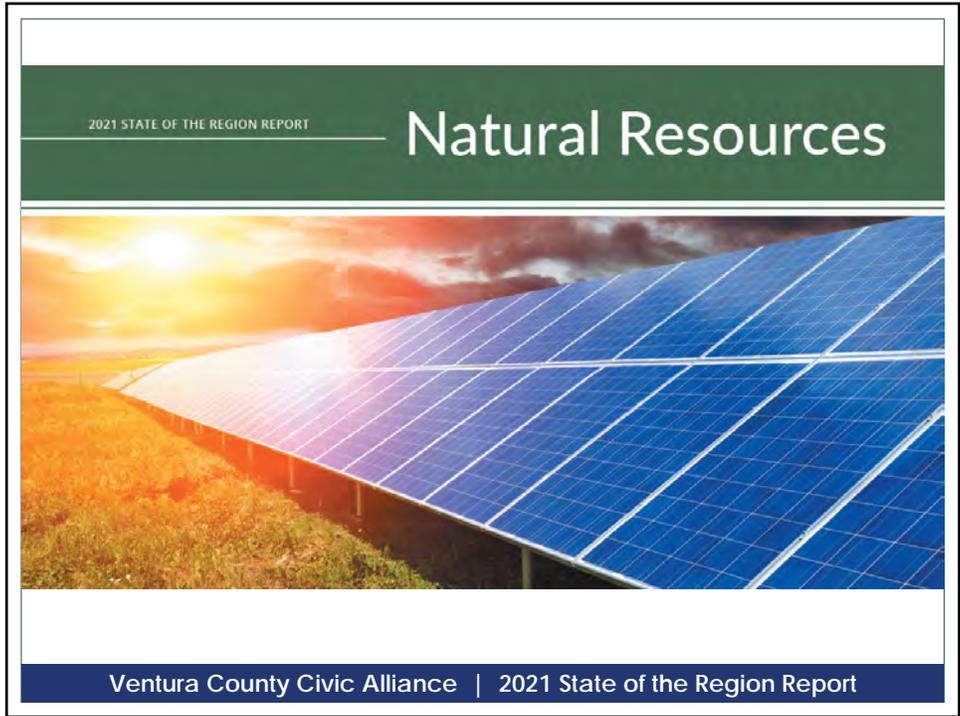
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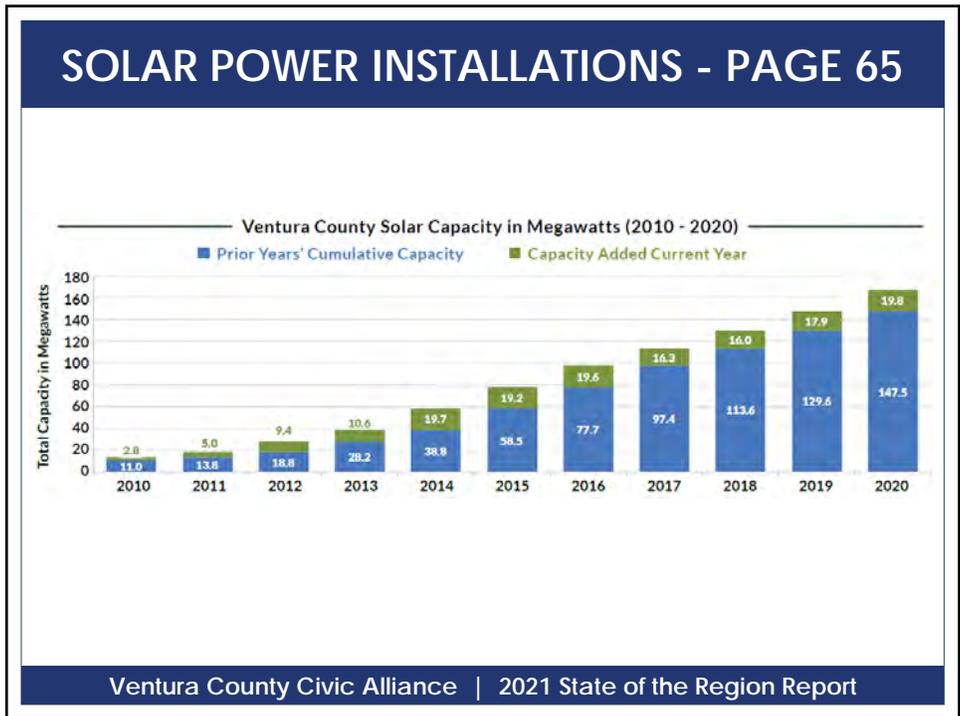
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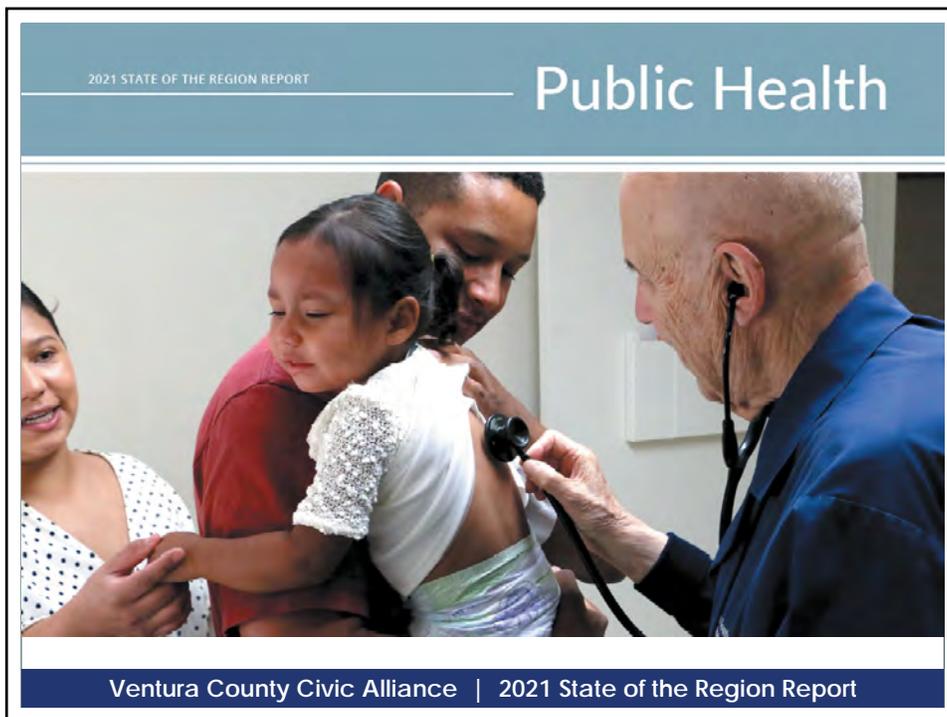
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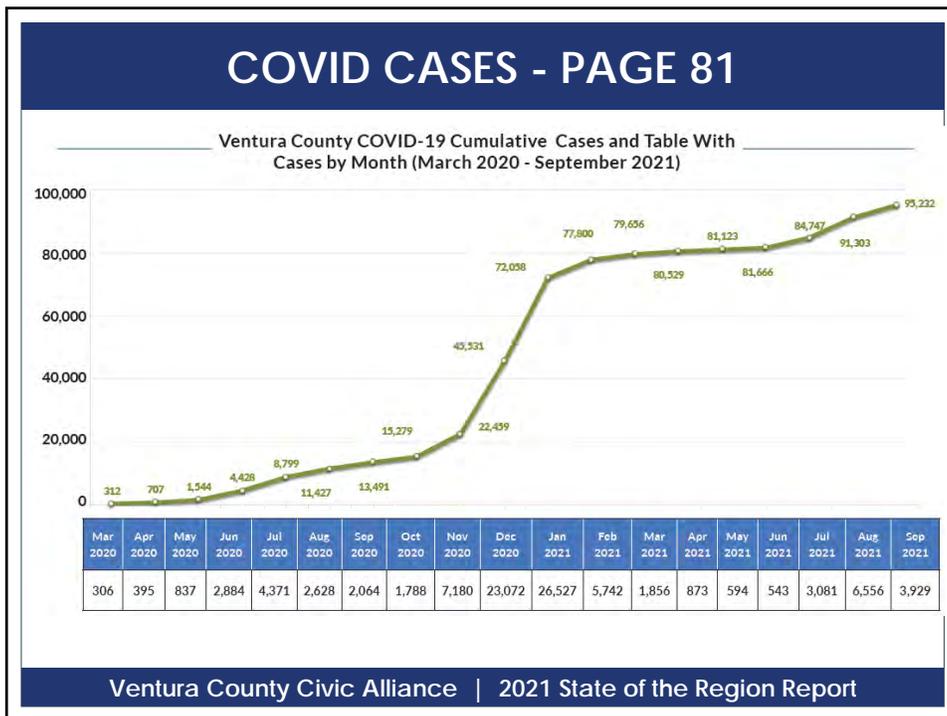
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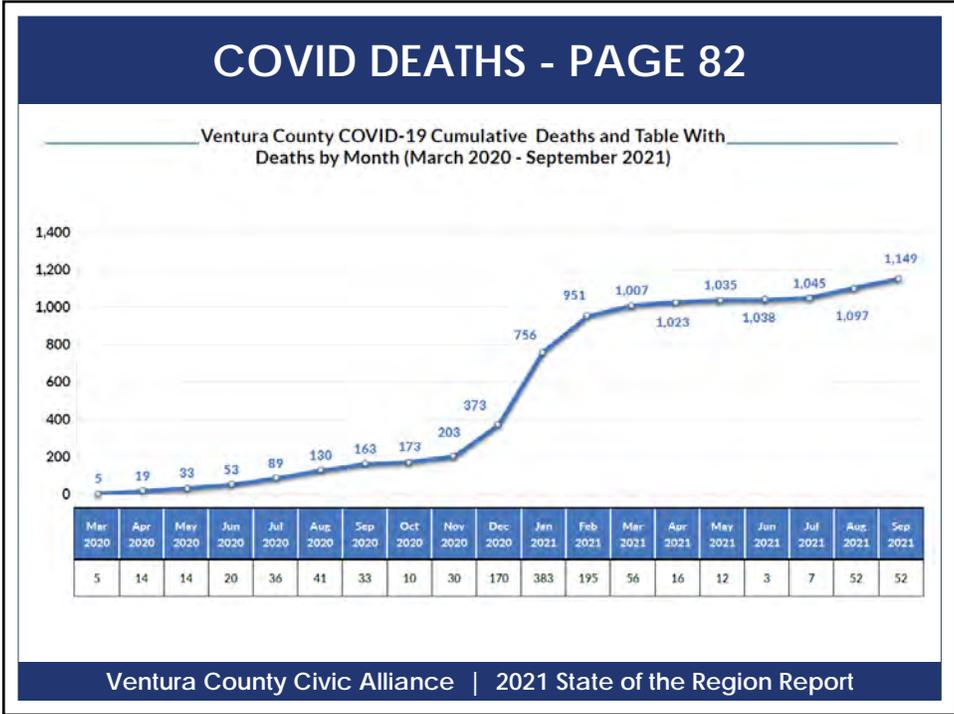
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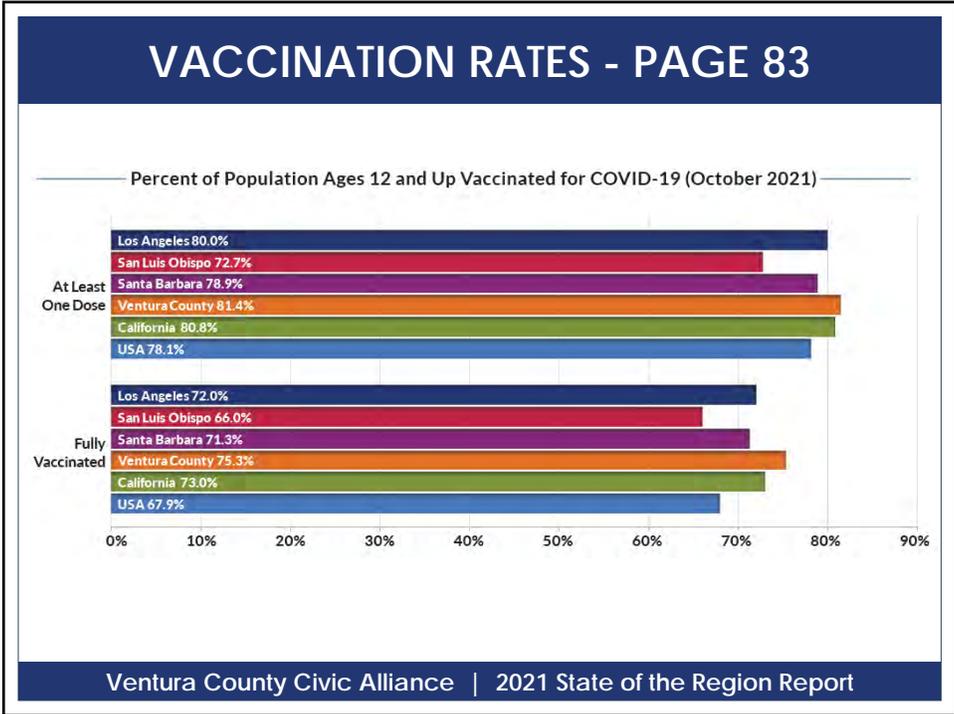
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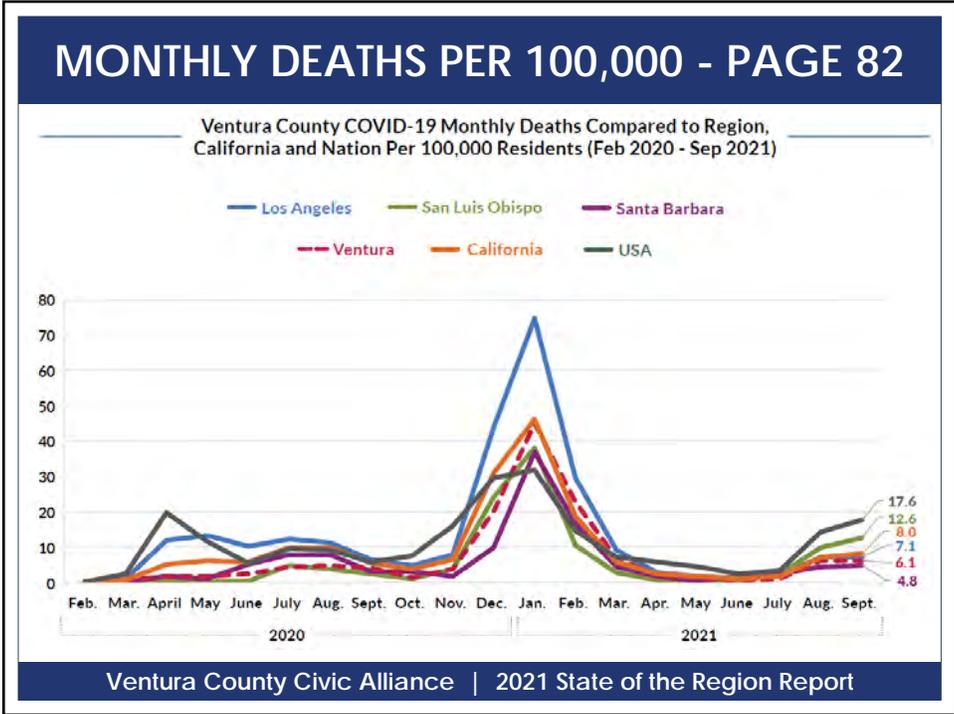
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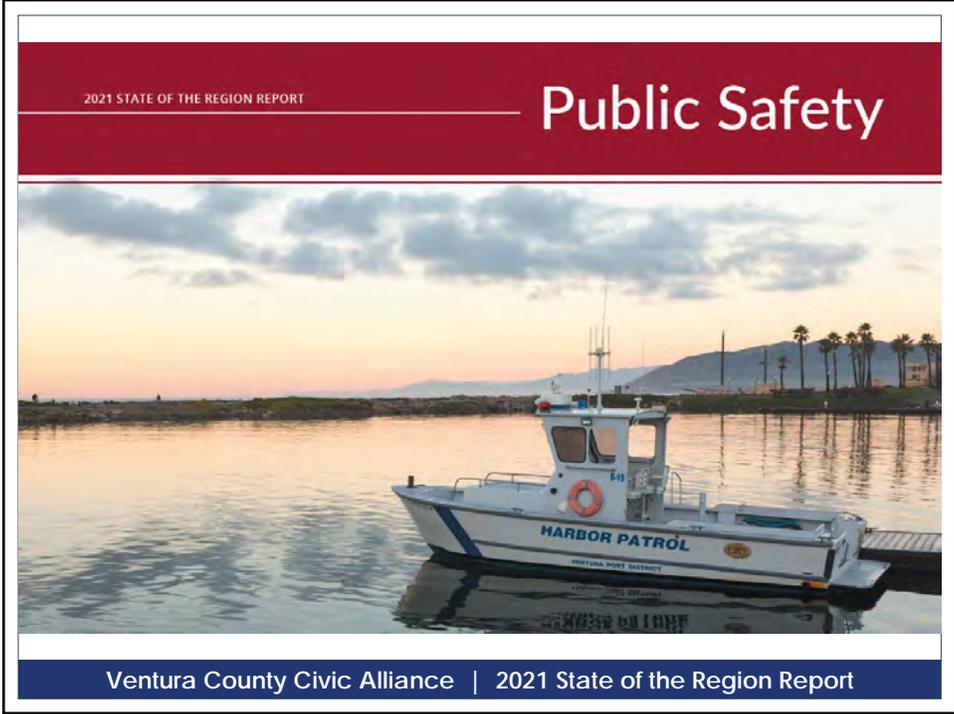
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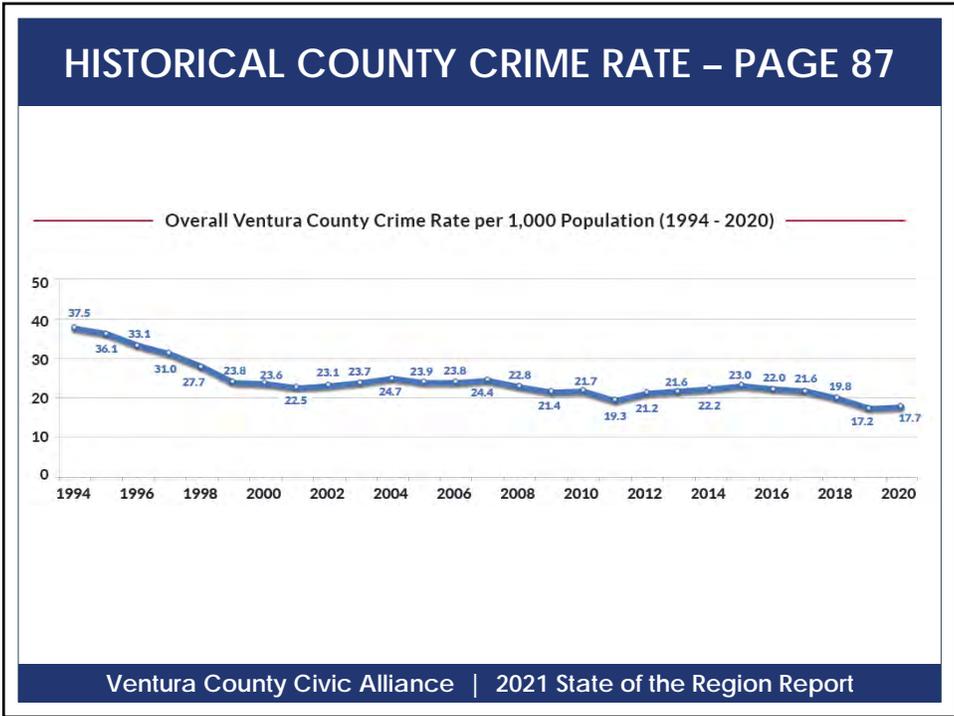
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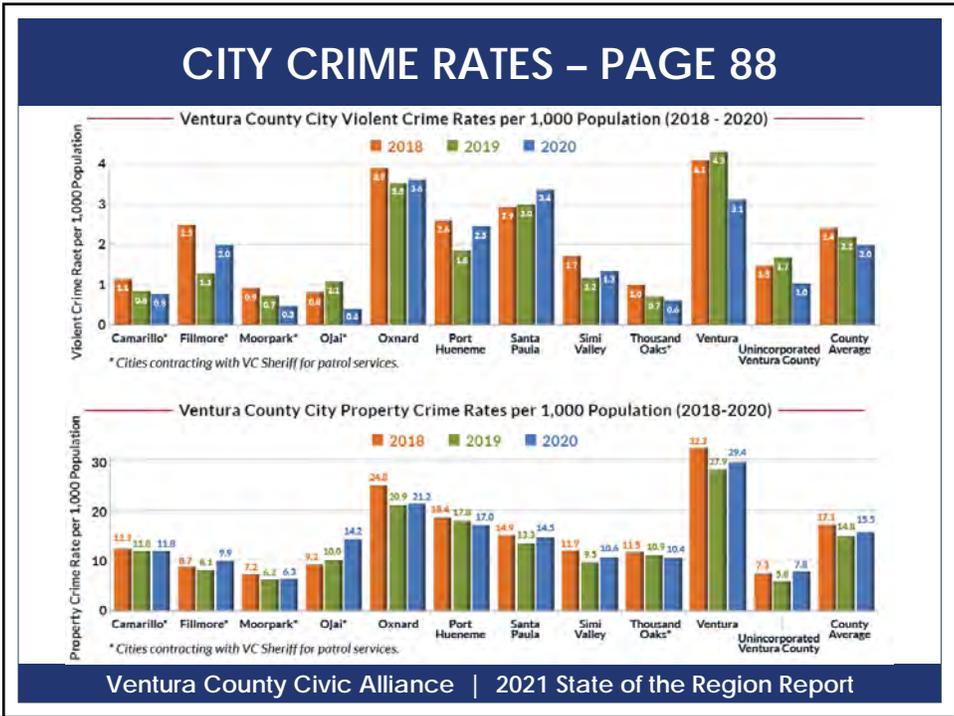
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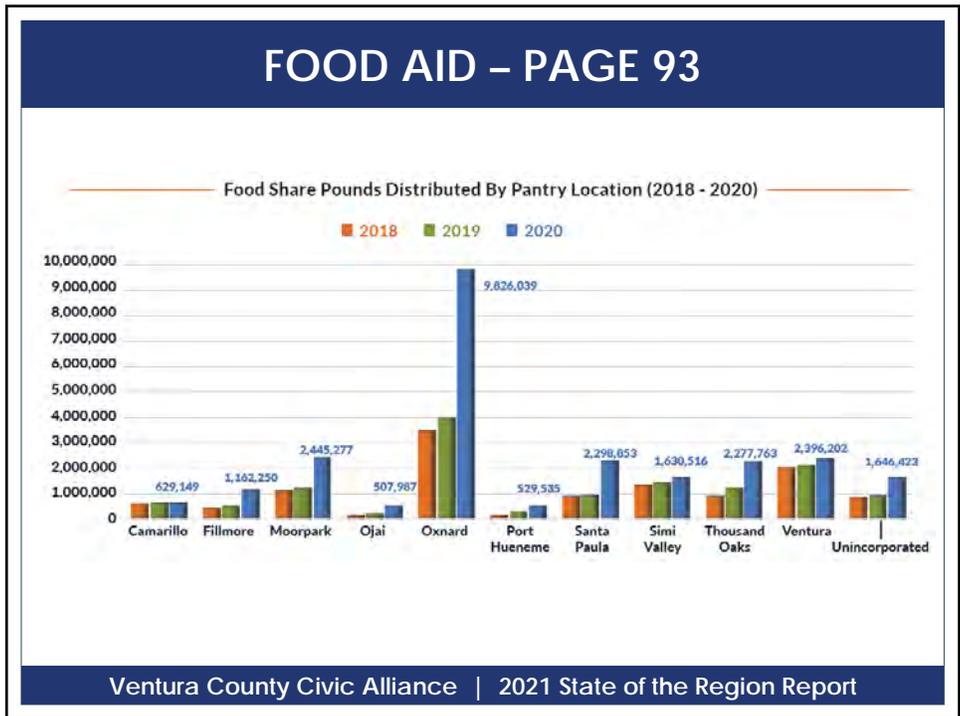
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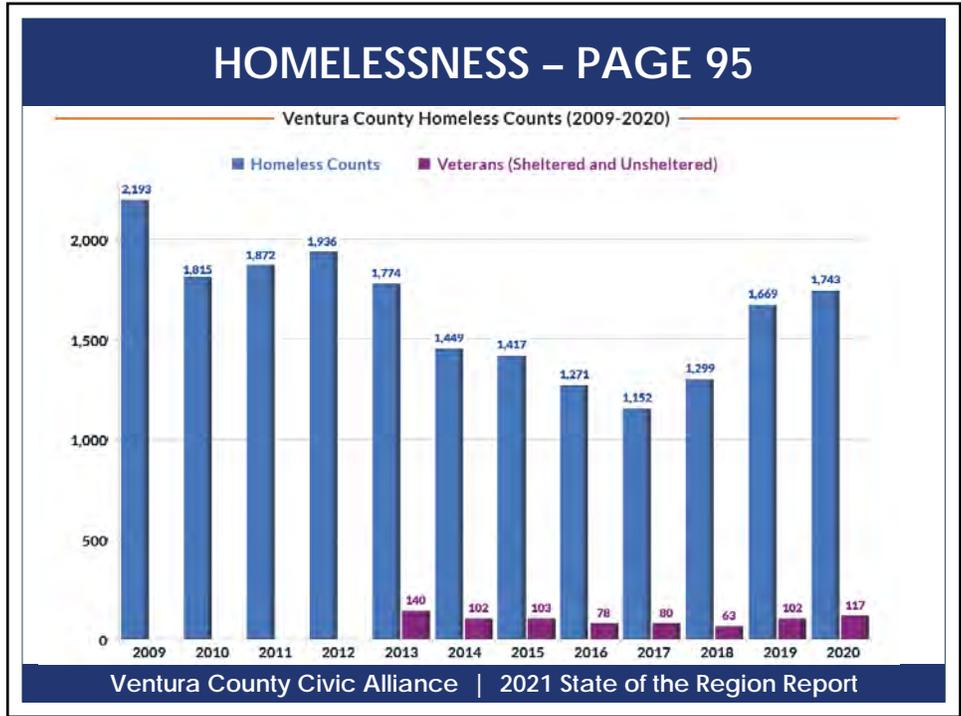
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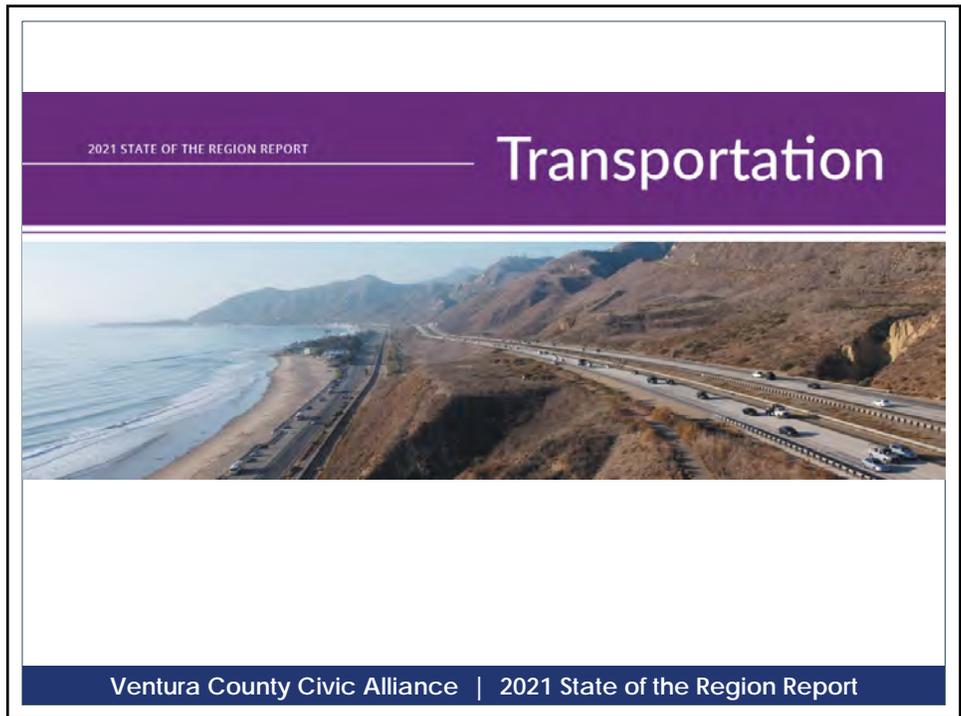
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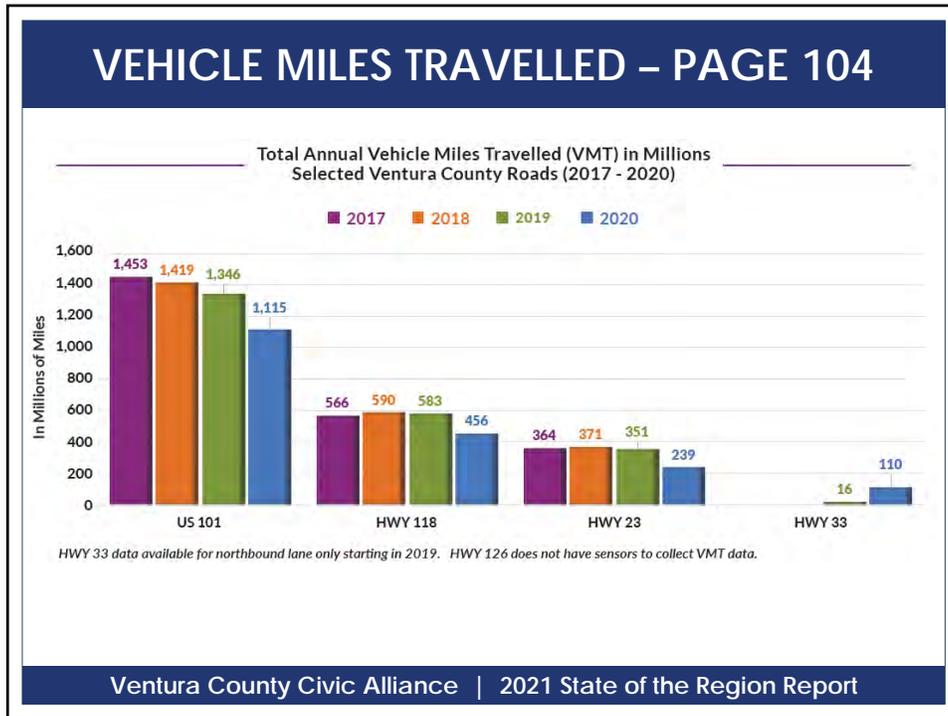
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**Ventura County Special
Districts Association**



December 22, 2021

Neil McCormick
Chief Executive Officer
California Special Districts Association
1112 I Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. McCormick:

On behalf of the Ventura County Special Districts Association (VCSDA), I am writing to express our concerns with the draft legislative proposal that is being discussed to amend current law related to exemptions from the local agency formation approval process for extensions of service. VCSDA is concerned that, if successful, this proposal could result in inconsistent application of the law across the state and could potentially authorize a single individual to make a determination as to whether or not a proposed out of agency service meets existing criteria for an exemption from the local agency formation approval process.

Government Code Section 56133 provides that a city or district may provide new or extended service outside of its boundaries by contract or agreement only if it first receives written approval from the local agency formation commission (LAFCO). Current law outlines the scenarios under which an out of agency service agreement can be approved. Section 56133 also details circumstances which are exempt from receiving LAFCO approval for an out of agency service agreement.

The draft legislative proposal that has been circulated for consideration would require an agency that to receive a positive determination from a LAFCO, or a LAFCO Executive Director, in order to be able to use one of the exemptions contained in Section 56133. Presumably, if an agency does not receive that positive determination, they would not be allowed to utilize the exemption and would instead be required to receive LAFCO approval for their out of agency service agreement. In the establishment of Section 56133, the Legislature put forth specific situations in which LAFCO approval is not required for these types of agreements; however, by requiring an agency to receive an exemption determination from LAFCO (or a LAFCO Executive Director), this proposal essentially removes out of agency service agreement exemptions and requires all such agreements to receive LAFCO approval.

By removing the ability for agencies to use current exemptions, when appropriate, this bill will increase the overall amount of time, and cost, associated with out of agency service agreements. Additionally, this proposal does not seem to provide any rationale for requiring a LAFCO determination. The underlying sentiment from this proposal appears to be that local agencies are not capable of determining when the conditions for utilizing and exemption are present. Out of agency service agreements are not something that are entered into lightly, and cities and districts that enter into these agreements do so only after careful study and evaluation, as well as with the

Mr. Neil McCormick
CSDA
December 22, 2021
Page 2

input of legal counsel. Cities and districts are in the best position to determine if the exemptions that exist in Section 56133 are applicable to their specific situation. Additionally, there is nothing in current law that prevents a city or district from consulting with LAFCO in the event that there are questions about the applicability of current exemptions.

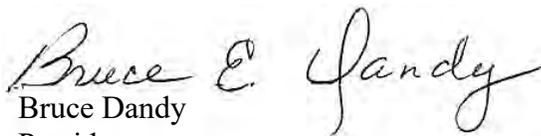
In addition to requiring a positive LAFCO determination in order to be able to utilize a current out of agency service agreement exemption, the proposed legislation would allow a LAFCO to authorize their Executive Director to make the determination. VCSDA finds this provision particularly troublesome. Under this scenario, a single individual would have the ability to determine if a city or agency can utilize one of the exemptions expressly created by the Legislature. This determination would be made by a single individual without any form of public hearing and without needing to provide any form of justification for how they reached their determination. Again, the underlying rationale for this proposal appears to be that cities and local agencies are not capable of assessing the applicability of the exemptions contained in current law; however, a lone individual that may, or may not, be familiar with the details of the out of agency service agreement is better able to make that determination.

VCSDA appreciates the desire for the existing exemptions contained in current law to be appropriately applied. We agree that these exemptions should only be used when warranted, and if not warranted, then an out of agency service agreement should require LAFCO approval. However, we remain unconvinced that cities and agencies that are looking to enter into such agreements lack the basis to determine if the exemptions apply in their specific circumstances.

VCSDA does not believe that current law requires modification, as proposed. Instead, we believe that local LAFCO should educate local agencies about the current basis for exemption from the provisions of 56133 and serve as a resource for local agencies that are considering entering into such agreements. VCSDA would request that the California Special Districts Association not support, or serve as a co-sponsor, of the proposed legislation. Ultimately, VCSDA believes that this proposal has the ability to negatively impact special districts, by requiring a new approval for allowable extensions of service.

I appreciate your consideration of VCDSA's request in this matter. If you have any questions, or would like to further discuss our position, please feel free to contact me directly at 805 822 2521.

Sincerely,


Bruce Dandy
President

Ventura County Special District Association

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2021

	<u>Dec 31, 21</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Checking at Wells Fargo Bank	17,093.99
Total Checking/Savings	<u>17,093.99</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>17,093.99</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>17,093.99</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	14,062.47
Unrestricted Net Assets	2,160.90
Net Income	870.62
Total Equity	<u>17,093.99</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>17,093.99</u>

Ventura County Special District Association

Profit & Loss

January through December 2021

	<u>Jan - Dec 21</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Annual Dinner	1,081.00
Annual Dues	2,550.00
	<hr/>
Total Income	3,631.00
Expense	
Accounting Exp	1,555.50
Computer and Internet Expenses	64.95
Dinner Costs	954.46
Placques	185.47
	<hr/>
Total Expense	2,760.38
Net Ordinary Income	<hr/> 870.62
Net Income	<hr/> <hr/> 870.62

Agenda Item 9.A **Consideration of Donation to the SDLF Scholarship Fund to be presented at the annual CSDA conference in August 2022**
Motion

In April of 2020, VCSDA membership approved a \$2,000 donation to the California Special Districts Association’s Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) for scholarships that enable smaller districts with minimum budgets to send members for the invaluable leadership training that SDLF provides. A donation to the SDLF Scholarship Fund is in keeping with the VCSDA’s commitment to encouraging Special District staff to seek accreditation, certification and participation in other recognition programs through the SDLF.

The Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF), a 501(c)(3) organization formed in 1991, provides recognition and certification opportunities to special district officials and employees to enhance service to the public. It is dedicated to excellence in local government. To date, SDLF has designed and implemented the following programs: Certified Special District Manager (CSDM); Certificate in Special District Governance; District of Distinction Accreditation; and District Transparency Certificate of Excellence.

The Certified Special District Manager (CSDM) is for general managers and other management staff of the district, the Certificate in Special District Governance is for directors or trustees, District of Distinction Accreditation and the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence are programs for the district as a whole.

SDLF’s Mission Statement: To promote and recognize excellence in the governance and management of special districts.

SDLF’s Vision Statement: Every special district in California has well trained, knowledgeable decision-makers and engages the public through a transparent process.

Continuing to recognize the important and valuable work of SDLF with annual scholarship donations demonstrates VCSDA’s unifying voice in support of Special Districts, and exhibits strong leadership and collaboration as an organization advocating on behalf of its members and non-members alike.

Presenting the chapter’s donation at the annual CSDA Conference, held in August of 2022, also provides recognition of the chapter’s commitment to and support of the Special District Leadership Foundation.

“Motion to approve a donation to the SDLF Scholarship Fund in the amount of \$_____, to be presented at the annual CSDA Conference in August 2022 by the VCSDA’s membership,”
_____;

Second, _____ .

Vote: all in favor _____ opposed _____ abstaining _____