



Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board

March 10, 2025, 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 • www.vcrma.org/divisions/planning

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, March 10, 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@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 March 10, 2025, Agenda
 - 3b. Vote to approve the February 24, 2025, 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:** 3935 Thacher Road, Ojai, CA 93023 (Supervisory District 1 – LaVere)

Action: A request for a Certificate of Review to authorize a mix of construction activity at a property located at 3935 Thacher Road, Ojai, CA 93023 (Site of Merit). The scope of work includes the construction of a new detached 1,200 sq. ft. accessory dwelling unit (ADU) with 452 sq. ft. of attached patio covers, a detached 432 sq. ft. garage, a 845 sq. ft. patio cover with an outdoor kitchen, dining area, and fireplace, a 300 sq. ft. trellis patio cover, and demolition of an existing pool and construction of a new 900 sq. ft. pool and spa and associated pool equipment area. The scope of work also includes the conversion of the existing garage into a 442 sq. ft. gym, 75 sq. ft. changing area, 48 sq. ft. bathroom, and 80 sq. ft. laundry area. The existing garage to be converted will have an addition of 310 sq. ft. for a pool house, a 426 sq. ft. covered patio with exterior stairs, and a 96 sq. ft. storage area. In addition, the existing single-family dwelling will have improvements to the driveway, addition of paths and stairs, and new retaining walls. (Case No. CH25-0009).

6b. **Action:** Discuss and determine the Cultural Heritage Board's role and involvement with the Plein Air Ventura County art show planned for May 2026 as well as various kickoff events.

6c. **Action:** Discuss and determine when to hold the Historic Preservation Awards ceremony planned for May 2025.

6d. **Action:** Review and provide feedback on a new Cultural Heritage Program brochure covering Lost Landmarks of Ventura County.

7. **REPORTS**

7a. Board Member Reports

7b. CHB Program Updates from Staff

8. **NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held March 24, 2025.

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. 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 24, 2025, **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. **1:16 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:

Mike Winters (Chair), Gary Blum, Miguel Fernandez, and Anthony Angelini

CHB Members Absent:

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 AND PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

3a. Vote to approve the February 24, 2025, Agenda

Board Member Fernandez made a motion to approve the February 24, 2025, Agenda. Board Member Blum seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

3b. Vote to approve the January 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Board Member Angelini made a motion to approve the January 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes. Board Member Blum seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Laura Jespersen, a local Ventura artist with Plein Air Ventura County, introduced herself and provided a background on the group of artists. Ms. Jespersen spoke about the group's planned project to paint over 100 historical sites and landscapes across Ventura County. The project would be highlighted at various kick-off events around the community and culminate in an art show at the Ventura County Government Center, Hall of Administration in May 2026. Ms. Jespersen requested feedback on a draft brochure promoting the project and shared some example paintings.

Board Members praised the project and brochure and requested that staff add an item to the next meeting agenda to discuss the Cultural Heritage Board's role and involvement with the project.

5. **CONTINUED ITEMS**

None

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

6a. Action: Receive an update from Mr. William Maple on development progress around the historic Timber School (Ventura County Landmark #166), the status of other Conejo Valley historic sites, and the establishment of a new Conejo Valley Heritage Committee.

Presentation: William Maple presented a PowerPoint presentation on development progress around the historic Timber School (Ventura County Landmark #166), the status of other Conejo Valley historic sites, and the establishment of a new Conejo Valley Heritage Committee.

Discussion and Deliberation:

Board Members thanked Mr. Maple for his advocacy regarding Conejo Valley historic sites.

Board Member Angelini provided a recent history of municipal arts and historic preservation advisory bodies in the City of Thousand Oaks.

Chair Winters noted that the Cultural Heritage Board has limited authority in the City of Thousand Oaks and may only assist the city with historic preservation matters upon their request. Chair Winters suggested that Mr. Maple get in touch with the San Buenaventura Conservancy to discuss strategies for increasing public engagement and grassroots support for historic preservation.

6b. Action: Review, provide comments, and direct staff to forward the County of Ventura Cultural Heritage Board Certified Local Government Annual Report for 2023–2024 to the California State Office of Historic Preservation.

Presentation: Dillan Murray, staff, presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining the item background, contents of the Certified Local Government

Annual Report for 2023–2024, 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; and
2. Based on the preceding evidence and analysis, **REVIEW, PROVIDE** comments, and **DIRECT** staff to forward the County of Ventura Cultural Heritage Board Certified Local Government Annual Report for 2023–2024 to the California State Office of Historic Preservation.

Discussion and Deliberation:

Board Members thanked staff for their efforts on compiling the Certified Local Government Annual Report for 2023–2024.

Board Member Fernandez suggested that the report include mention of the Japanese Cemetery rededication ceremony and luncheon as outreach that was conducted during the reporting period. Dillan Murray, staff, noted that the event can be included in this report, and the Scarlett/McGrath Ranch luncheon held in December 2024 can be added in the next CLG report.

Chair Winters noted that he submitted his professional resume to staff to be included. Board Members Fernandez and Blum stated that they will also provide updated resumes to staff.

Board Member Angelini inquired as to whether there was any need for improvements as a CLG? Dillan Murray, staff, noted that the evidence in the report demonstrated compliance with all minimum requirements for certification as a CLG, and that staff has never received corrective feedback from the State Office of Historic Preservation.

Board Member Fernandez made a motion to adopt staff's recommended actions with inclusion of the aforementioned revision to the CLG report. Board Member Angelini seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

7. REPORTS

7a. Board Member Reports

Board Member Fernandez reported that the Fair Display ad hoc committee had recently met and explored new ideas about public engagement and future incorporation of artwork from Plein Air Ventura County.

Board Member Angelini reported that Simi Valley Mayor Fred Thomas had sadly passed away. His funeral will be held on March 1st at Simi Valley City Hall.

7b. CHB Program Updates from Staff

Dillan Murray, staff, reported that based on the CHB's input, Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) photo documentation was completed for the historic Reyes Adobe in northern Ventura County. The photos, taken by Stephen Schafer, have been uploaded to the Planning Division's HABS photo library webpage. HABS photos provide a permanent record of the nation's most important historic sites and large-scale objects that are in danger of demolition or loss by neglect.

Next, Mr. Murray reported that the next scheduled hearing will be March 10th. Also, the next guest speaker has been scheduled for March 24th. We will hear from Jeff Maulhardt, a local historian and author, on the history and significance of agriculture, specifically the lima bean, in Ventura County.

Next, ad hoc committees for the Fair Display and 2025 Preservation Awards are both moving forward and those efforts continue.

In addition, recent Planning Intern, Nandini Prajapati, completed her time with the Planning Division. During her internship, she developed an outreach brochure highlighting lost historic resources of Ventura County, important reasons to advocate for historic preservation, and ways the public can get involved. She also conducted research into potential Landmarks and Points of Interest and developed a notification letter template for potential Point of Interest designations that staff will continue to use in the future.

Finally, Mr. Murray reported that the City of Oxnard Housing Department recently hired a historic consultant to evaluate the Levy Apartment building at 201 S D Street, which is both a Landmark and a Mills Act property. County staff met with the consultant to discuss project review requirements and understands the consultant will come up with a work plan, identify work priorities, and train city staff on appropriate maintenance, such as restoring

historic wood windows. County staff will be inspecting Mills Act contract properties in person this year, which is done every 5 years.

8. **NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled hearing will be held on March 10, 2025.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 2:13 p.m., the Cultural Heritage Board was adjourned.

Mike Winters, Chair
Cultural Heritage Board

ATTEST:

Dillan Murray
Cultural Heritage Program Planner

Date