

MINUTES
EDC-VC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 17, 2025

Location: 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd, (Board Room), Camarillo, CA 93012

Attendance: Amy Fonzo – California Resources Company
Bill McReynolds—City of Ventura
Bob Engler—City of Thousand Oaks, *Board-Chair*
Celina Zacarias—California State University Channel Islands
Georg Winkler – City of Camarillo
Harold Edwards -- Limoneira Company
Janice Parvin—County of Ventura, *Board of Supervisor*
Jeremy Goldberg—Central Coast Labor Council
Jim Eubanks—KPMG
John Bandek—*EDC Economic Development Roundtable*
Julia Justus —Meissner Filtration
Dr. Sevet Johnson —County of Ventura
Leticia Austin—Port of Hueneme, Vice Chair
Luis McArthur —City of Oxnard
Martin Erickson—*Ventura County Transportation Commission (Liaison)*
Alan Jaeger —Naval Surface Warfare Center, Port Hueneme Division
Nan Drake – E.J. Harrison Industries
Ozzie Rios—Montecito Bank and Trust
Pedro Chavez – City of Santa Paula
Peter Zierhut—Haas Automation, *Secretary/Treasurer*
Rachel Lang- City of Ojai
Renee Delgado – City of Moorpark
John Bandek – City of Moorpark/*Ec Dev Roundtable Liaison*

Absent: Albert Mendez – City of Fillmore
Brian Tucker – *Ventura County West (Liaison)*
Dr. Cynthia Herrera – Ventura County Community College District, *Vice Chair*
Gerhard Apfelthaler, California Lutheran University
Dee Dee Cavanaugh—City of Simi Valley
Henry Dubroff—Pacific Coast Business Times
Misty Perez—City of Port Hueneme
Rebecca Evans— VC Workforce Development Board
Sim Tang Paradis—City National Bank
Stephanie Caldwell – Tri- County Chamber Alliance
Tracy Perez- VCEDA

Staff:	<p>Alondra Gaytan, Director of Strategic Relations</p> <p>Bruce Stenslie, President/CEO</p> <p>Ray Bowman, Director of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC)</p> <p>Shalene Hayman, EDC Controller</p>
Guests:	<p>Monica James —Naval Surface Warfare Center, Port Hueneme Division</p> <p>Gloria Elias Martinez—County of Ventura</p> <p>Mike Silacci—VCCF</p>
Call to Order:	Board Chair Bob Engler welcomed everyone. The meeting began at 3:40pm.
Amendment to the Agenda:	None
Public Comment:	None
Approval of Meeting Minutes:	<p>Approval of Meeting Minutes March 2, 2025</p> <p>Board Chair Bob Engler opened discussion and invited comments from members of the board regarding the March 2, 2025 board minutes. Bob Engler called a motion to approve the March 2, 2025 meeting minutes. Supervisor Janice Parvin moved the motion and Pedro Chavez seconded. All Board members listed in attendance in favor, motion carried.</p>
Financial Report:	<p>Approval of March 2025 Financials</p> <p>Board Chair Bob Engler opened discussion and invited comments from members of the board regarding the March 2025 Financials. Bob Engler called a motion to approve the March 2025 Financials. Nan Drake moved to approve the motion and Celina Zacarias seconded the motion. All Board members listed in attendance in favor, motion carried.</p>
Administration:	<p>A. Consideration to Ratify the President/CEO’s Approval of an Agreement with Platinum HR Consulting Group, for Ongoing HR Management and Staff Support Services, Estimated Not to Exceed \$25,000 Annually. Recommendation to Approve.</p> <p>Bruce Stenslie provided background on this item. He mentioned over the last several years EDC has grown from some five full-time staff to 16. As we have grown, we have almost exclusively focused on adding service delivery staff and expertise, <i>under-attending</i> to building up the organization’s administrative capacity. Toward addressing that need to shore up our administration, EDC has in recent months budgeted to add a CFO/COO position (currently in recruitment), added a fiscal staff support position, purchased new financial management software (to be implemented later this spring/summer), updated our Employee Handbook, and on-boarded new supports for staff in retirement and financial management services. Those actions noted, have not yet added additional capacity for HR management. While EDC is of a scale and complexity that justifies the need, the assessment of options indicates that the most cost-effective approach is to contract with a professional firm rather than hiring new staff. Board members had a discussion and shared their comments.</p> <p>Bob Engler called a motion Consideration to Ratify the President/CEO’s Approval of an Agreement with Platinum HR Consulting Group, for Ongoing HR Management and Staff</p>

Support Services, Estimated Not to Exceed \$25,000 Annually. Pedro Chavez moved to approve the motion and Supervisor Janice Parvin seconded the motion. All Board members listed in attendance in favor, motion carried

B. Consideration to Ratify the President/CEO's Approval of an Agreement with Child Development Resources of Ventura County, Inc., \$143,665, for the Term 4/1/25 – 12/31/26, "Assessing the Disruption, Investing in Adaptation and Resilience, Anticipating the Impacts of Transitioning to Universal Pre-K."

Bruce Stenslie provided context regarding the implications and disruptions that the implementation of Universal Pre-K has in California. The Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF) invited proposals from the ECE network in Ventura County two years ago. The ECE Task Force (ECE), Child Development Resources (CDR), First 5, the Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE), and the Economic Development Collaborative (EDC) received a designation for funding up to \$500K. EDC is the grant recipient on behalf of the ECE partners. This contract with CDR now implements the outreach and assessment component of our proposal, concentrating services in Santa Paula in alignment with the Isabella Project Coalition which aims to support childcare providers as part of the mixed delivery system for Universal Pre-K. The initiative focuses on family childcare providers and private childcare centers, striving to improve their economic viability, service quality, and operational capacity, particularly in infant/toddler care. VCCF has also provided additional funding for this effort directly to CDR and CDR is implementing this scope of work in alignment with a private foundation funded Guaranteed Income Pilot project for ECE providers. Board members had a discussion and shared their comments.

Bob Engler called a motion to Consideration to Ratify the President/CEO's Approval of an Agreement with Child Development Resources of Ventura County, Inc., \$143,665, for the Term 4/1/25 – 12/31/26, "Assessing the Disruption, Investing in Adaptation and Resilience, Anticipating the Impacts of Transitioning to Universal Pre-K." Pedro Chavez moved to approve the motion and Rachel Lang seconded the motion. All Board members listed in attendance in favor, motion carried

C. Consideration to Renew the FATHOMWERX Memorandum of Understanding. Recommendation to approve.

Bruce Stenslie provided background information regarding the priorities of the EDC to develop regional networks and resources for enhancing economic growth through entrepreneurship. In 2022 EDC updated the agreement to add in NAVFAC. Today it is recommended to update and re-commit to the agreement. While not yet added, looking ahead, EDC anticipates the likelihood of adding the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division Point Mugu (NAVAIR), to the MOU, thus securing the partnership of each of the three major research commands at Naval Base Ventura County. This MOU is a non-financial agreement, though the parties do agree to collaborate on seeking and securing funding. EDC has had success on that front, securing funding recently through Ventura County's share of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and by a state designation and funding for FATHOMWERX as an Inclusive Innovation Hub. EDC and partners will continue to look for and invest resources in the partnership, for the purpose of growing our regional economy and competitiveness.

Bob Engler called a motion to Renew the FATHOMWERX Memorandum of Understanding. Nan Drake moved to approve the motion and Luis McArthur seconded the motion. Celina Zacarias abstained from this motion. All Board members listed in attendance in favor, motion carried

D. Presidents Report

Bruce Stenslie provided an overview of the various local, regional, and other community meetings and partnerships. A few updates for board members included upcoming events, and grant opportunities. With interested in the partnership and leveraging of resources.

Board Member Discussion/Liaison Reports:

Roundtable on Tariffs: Prior to the several standing reports several members commented on the impact of tariffs on their industry sectors and businesses. The consensus is that the main impact is “uncertainty,” though concerns were expressed throughout about the challenge of dealing with disruption and uncertainty.

Economic Developers Roundtable – John Bandek shared a handout with a summary of the various activities occurring at the 10 cities of Ventura County.

Naval Surface Warfare Center – Alan Jaeger, shared briefly activities happening.

Ventura County Economic Development Association— Julia Justus reported out regarding their Policy Committee updates for business advocacy.

Ventura County Farm Bureau—Not present

Ventura County Industry Council—Peter Zierhut provided an overview of VCIC’s efforts to grow VCIC. Shared they are working on establishing partnerships with education partners.

Ventura County Lodging Association— Not Present, emailed an update to full board.

Ventura County Real Estate Report—Renee Delgado from the City of Moorpark shared data regarding the current market of Real Estate in Ventura County.

Ventura County Transportation Commission—Martin Erickson provided an update on current initiatives the commission is working on and their partnerships.

Adjournment:

Board Chair Bob Engler Adjourned the meeting at 5:01pm to May 15, 2025