

MINUTES
EDC-VC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 7, 2025

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

Attendance: Amy Fonzo – California Resources Company
Albert Mendez – City of Fillmore
Bob Engler—City of Thousand Oaks, *Board-Chair*
Dr. Cynthia Herrera – Ventura County Community College District, Vice Chair
Dee Dee Cavanaugh—City of Simi Valley
Georg Winkler – City of Camarillo
Harold Edwards -- Limoneira Company
Henry Dubroff—Pacific Coast Business Times
Janice Parvin—County of Ventura, *Board of Supervisor*
Jeff Gorrell—County of Ventra, *Board of Supervisor*
Jeremy Goldberg—Central Coast Labor Council
Jim Eubanks—KPMG
John Bandek—*EDC Economic Development Roundtable*
Chris Meissner —Meissner Filtration
Gloria Elias Martinez—County of Ventura
John Marquez – Tri- County Chamber Alliance
Miguel Rodriguez—Port of Hueneme
Luis McArthur —City of Oxnard
Martin Erickson—*Ventura County Transportation Commission (Liaison)*
Maureen McGuire—Farm Bureau of Ventura County
Monica James —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
Sim Tang Paradis—City National Bank
Brian Tucker – Ventura County West (Liaison)
Leslie Rule- City of Ojai
Renee Delgado – City of Moorpark
John Bandek – City of Moorpark/*Ec Dev Roundtable Liaison*

Absent: Celina Zacarias—California State University Channel Islands
Gerhard Apfelthaler, California Lutheran University
Peter Zierhut—Haas Automation, Secretary/Treasurer
Misty Perez—City of Port Hueneme
Tracy Perez- VCEDA

Staff: Alondra Gaytan, Director of Strategic Relations
Bruce Stenslie, President/CEO
Shalene Hayman, EDC Controller

Guests:

Mike Silacci—VCCF

Board Chair Bob Engler welcomed everyone. The meeting began at 3:40pm.

Call to Order:

Amendment to the Agenda: None

Public Comment: None

Approval of Meeting Minutes: **Approval of Meeting Minutes April 17, 2025**
Board Chair Bob Engler opened discussion and invited comments from members of the board regarding the April 17, 2025 board minutes. Bob Engler called a motion to approve the April 17, 2025 meeting minutes. Nan Drake moved the motion and Dee Dee Cavanaugh seconded. All Board members listed in attendance in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report: **Approval of April 2025 Financials**

Board Chair Bob Engler opened a discussion and invited comments from members of the board regarding the April 2025 Financials. Bob Engler called a motion to approve the April 2025 Financials. Supervisor Jeff Gorrell moved to approve the motion and Sim Tang-Paradis seconded the motion. All Board members listed in attendance in favor; motion carried.

Administration: **A. Nomination for Appointment of Santa Barbara City College to the EDC Board of Directors.**

Bruce Stenslie provided background regarding the EDC's Bylaws on this item. Bruce shared that Santa Barbara City College has been a strong and valued partner to EDC, going back to at least 2010, when they signed an agreement with the College to serve then as our Santa Barbara County base for our Small Business Development Center. EDC has worked particularly close with SBCC's Scheinfeld Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation. Established in collaboration with SBCC leadership by the founders of Manpower Inc., the Scheinfeld Center serves as SBCC's primary concentration of resources for student and regional business training, networking and capacity building for entrepreneurship. For meeting SBCC's dues contribution, EDC staff and SBCC have agreed in principle for SBCC to meet its dues obligation through in-kind contributions. Section 6.2 of the Bylaws stipulates that up to five members annually may meet their dues obligation by in-kinds, at twice the value of a cash payment, or \$13,500 in-kind. (Currently EDC has three "in-kind" members: California Lutheran University (CLU), Chambers of Commerce Alliance, and Pacific Coast Business Times.) This arrangement with SBCC closely mirrors the current agreement with CLU, whereby credit the schools for recognition as event sponsors and for partnership in promoting entrepreneurship resources to shared "client" communities. EDC's timing for reaching this agreement now with SBCC is fortuitous, as SBCC leadership is in the

process of a strategic planning exercise for Scheinfeld, optimizing the opportunity for participation.

Bob Engler called a motion to nominate for appointment of the Santa Barbara City College to the EDC Board of Directors. Nan Drake moved to approve the motion and Albert Mendez seconded the motion. All Board members listed in attendance in favor, motion carried

B. Report Out on Regional Broadband Initiative for Ventura County

Bruce Stenslie shared background information regarding this item, with the full report provided by Shelby Arthur, our lead on all broadband grants and activities. EDC serves as fiscal agent and lead for the Pacific Coast Broadband Consortium, which consists of public and private high-speed communications stakeholders across Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. EDC is one among 15 regional Broadband Consortia designated and funded by the CA Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). EDC's purpose is to facilitate regional broadband deployment (investments in physical infrastructure) and adoption (the process by which individuals and businesses obtain access to the internet, at a speed, quality, affordability and capacity to optimize use). Over the last several years there has been increased attention and understanding of the value of broadband for; Business, accommodating remote work, digital marketing and e-commerce, education, remote and continuous learning; public safety, telehealth, access to public services and participation in governance. As a result there has been an increased attention by policy makers, resulting in; vast increases in federal and state funding, for both deployment of infrastructure and for supporting adoption, for closing the digital divide; changes in regulations governing service providers, both encouraging more investment in infrastructure to rural and under-served communities and for providing reduced service rates for target populations; increasing standards for what are defined as acceptable levels of service for qualifying for state or federal funding and subsidies; advancements in mapping and GIS technologies for identifying gaps in service; intensifying concentration of attention and resources especially for achieving digital equity.) A comprehensive strategy designed to guide and support the region's approach to closing the digital divide in Ventura County. For this work EDC secured Local Area Technical Assistance funding from the CPUC and contracted and partnered with the Ventura Council of Governments (VCOG) to develop the Plan. Board chair Bob Engler opened the room for discussion, board members shared their comments. This item was for informational purposes, no action required at this time.

C. Consideration of a Contract Renewal with First 5 Ventura County, \$142,500 for Operations and Loan Capital for the Community Investment Loan Fund, for the Term 7/1/25 – 6/30/26; Discussion on Early Child Education as an Economic Development Priority & Strategy.

Bruce Stenslie provided background information regarding the EDC's relationship with First 5 VC. The Ventura County Children and Families First Commission (First 5 Ventura County) was created by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors pursuant to the Children and Families First Act of 1998 (known generally as "Prop 10"). The purpose and mission of First 5 Ventura County is to promote, support, and improve the early development of children from the prenatal stage through five years of age. The Commission is funded by an annual allocation of tobacco tax funds, as established by Prop 10, plus additional discretionary public and private grants and contracts. In 2009, First 5 Ventura County established its "Community Investment Loan Fund," the intent of which is "to increase the capacity and infrastructure of programs serving young children and their families . . . through affordable, accessible capital for the development and maintenance of quality child care and preschool facilities for Ventura County's children." Following a competitive selection process, EDC-VC was awarded the contract for the management of the loan program. The recommended action today is to continue the program through June 30, 2025. First 5 Ventura County approved the contract at its regular meeting on May 16. Bob Engler called a motion to renew contract with the Ventura County Children and Families First Commission (First 5 Ventura County), for the period July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026,

for \$142,500, of which \$20,000 is for EDC’s continuing administration of \$122,500 in loan capital available for lending for the Community Investment Loan Fund. Dr. Martita Martinez-Bravo moved to approve the motion and Luis McArthur seconded the motion. All Board members listed in attendance in favor; motion carried.

D. Continuing Discussion on Implementing a Communications and Marketing Strategy Assessment, with Adelante Partners.

Bruce Stenslie noted that as shared last month, and in consideration of current staffing changes—specifically, our Communications and Marketing Manager moving on—our plan of action is to take some time during this transition to assess our strategic position relative to our identity and to all aspects of our communications infrastructure and strategy. We are working with Adelante Partners to provide consulting and advising services. Adelante was selected among three options we considered, through a small purchase procurement, owing to their experience and background in working with non-profit service providers, their subject matter expertise, and the depth and breadth of their team. Staff anticipates recommendations for action coming forward later in the summer.

E. 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:**

Economic Developers Roundtable – John Bandek provided a brief report.

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—Maureen McGuire provided a comprehensive report.

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— Brian Tucker provided a brief report.

Ventura County Real Estate Report—Renee Delgado distributed an update report.

Ventura County Transportation Commission— Martin Erickson provided a brief report.

Adjournment:

Board Chair Bob Engler Adjourned the meeting at 5:30pm to June 19, 2025