



VC COLAB ENDORSES FIRE CHIEF BOB ROPER FOR COUNTY SUPERVISOR 2012

By: Lynn Gray Jensen

In 2012, three of the five County Supervisor seats will be up for election. In District 1, 11 year incumbent Steve Bennett announced that he will vacate his seat to run for the newly created U.S. Congressional 26th district. This is an exceptional opportunity for a new candidate with fresh ideas to enter the mostly incumbent Ventura political stage.

On Monday, November 21st, Ventura County Fire Chief Bob Roper announced his candidacy for District 1 at the County Government Center. Introduced by former District Attorney Mike Bradbury, Roper pledged to “give back to the community”. VC COLAB President Bud Sloan was a speaker at the event and is a long time supporter of the Fire Chief. Bud believes he is an honest and forthright person; a good listener who can be counted on to remain cool and make common sense judgements under fire, literally. In fact, Bob Roper has 32 years as a firefighter with the last 14 as Fire Chief.

VC COLAB is proud to support Bob Roper for County Supervisor and believe he will be a supporter of labor, agriculture and business interests in the County. **We are urging our members and associates to support Bob by writing checks to the campaign in the amount of \$700.00 per person maximum.**

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Contributions to the Roper Campaign can be mailed to:

**Friends of Bob Roper for Supervisor 2012
323 E. Matilija St. Suite 110-193,
Ojai, CA 93023**

In addition, the Website is available for credit card contributions:
www.roperforsupervisor.com

One of our major concerns with respect to issues in the County is the difficulty for small businesses to obtain permits to remain in business or expand an operation and hire new employees. Farming, ranching, recreation and resource extraction are dominant businesses throughout the unincorporated areas with consistent needs to upgrade, revitalize and change business plans. While the County General Plan and Zoning Ordinance preclude most large-scale changes, recent interpretations of codes by agency staff have become more restrictive, causing unnecessary delays and processing costs. We believe businesses can thrive once again in the County with a little “business friendly attitude” at the County counters. This attitude is partially a reflection of the majority opinion of the five elected Board of Supervisors.

The current Supervisors represent the

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ROCKS IN OUR HEAD? CLOSURE THREATENS MINE IN OJAI

The Mosler Rock – Ojai Quarry is a strategic asset in the County of Ventura as one of only two remaining facilities permitted to supply rip-rap aggregate for our community. According to the California Construction and Industrial Materials Association (CALCIMA), “aggregates are key to construction: Sand, gravel and crushed stone are the first step in the construction process. They are used for making cement, concrete and asphalt as well as many other building materials”. Each and every Californian causes the use of 5-7 tons of construction aggregates annually. Aggregate uses include thousands of everyday applications: from large infrastructure highway, bridge and road construction projects, to sewer systems, schools and soccer fields, to environmental protection, erosion control, beach replenishment and even re-mineralization of agricultural soils. In fact, much of our homes we live in are made up of aggregates such as the foundation, wallboard, roof tiles, driveways etc.

California is the nation’s leading producer of construction aggregates and California’s permitted aggregate supplies are running

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following districts as shown on the map below: District 1 - Steve Bennett (including the cities of Ojai and Ventura), District 2 - Linda Parks (including Thousand Oaks), District 3 - Kathy Long (Including Camarillo, Santa Paula and Fillmore), District 4 - Peter Foy (including Moorpark and Simi Valley) and District 5 - John Zaragoza (including most of Oxnard). While Supervisors do not have jurisdiction over decisions within cities, voters from the cities generally determine the outcome of Supervisory elections.

The [Supervisory map](#) boundaries were recently revised based on the census in 2010. Changes in population lead to revisions in district boundaries as State law requires districts to be similar in popula-

tion. Overall population increase from 2000 to 2010 in the County was 9.3% or 70,000 people. Oxnard represented 39% of the gain and Simi/Moorpark 23%. Ojai and Port Hueneme had population decreases overall. Significant changes to the districts include Bennett taking over Riverpark, Wagon Wheel and Oxnard beaches from Zaragoza and a large portion of the North County from Long. In addition, Parks expanded into northern Santa Rosa Valley and Somis from Foy's district.

In 2012, in addition to Bennett's District, Kathy Long and John Zaragoza will be up for election. At this time there are no candidates who have announced they are running against the incumbents in Districts 3 and 5.

As a business owner, your supervisory district can be critical when processing permits particularly when you reach an impasse with agency staff. A business friendly supervisor can make a difference.

U.S. House Probes Excessive ESA Litigation

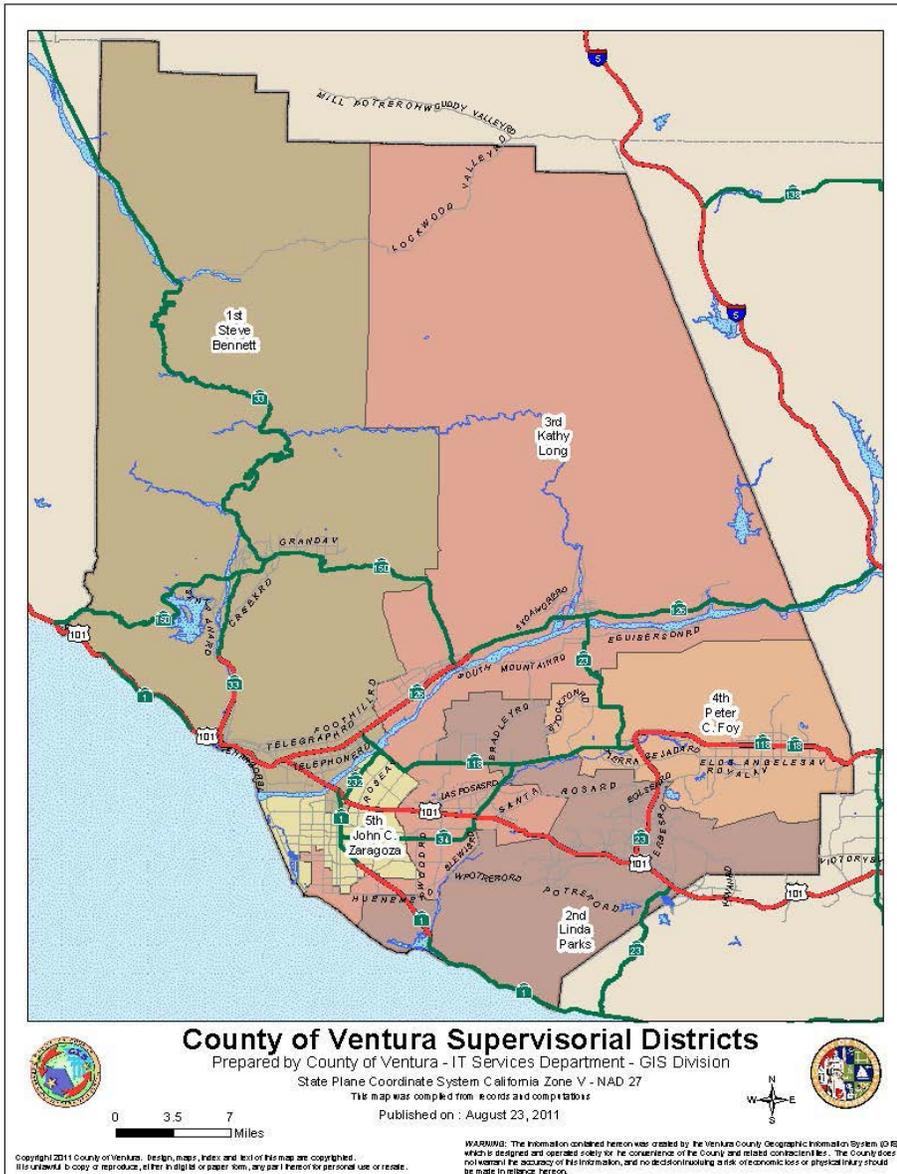
The U.S. House of Representatives, Natural Resources Committee held a full committee [oversight hearing](#) on December 6th. to examine how excessive Endangered Species Act (ESA) related litigation impacts species recovery, job creation and the economy. According to Chairman Doc Hastings (WA-04) *"The purpose of the ESA is to recover endangered species - yet this is where the current law is failing - and failing badly . . . In my opinion, one of the greatest obstacles to the success of the ESA is the way in which it has become a tool for excessive litigation."* Due to rigid timelines, vague definitions in the ACT and the propensity of some groups to sue the federal agencies, the ESA has become taken over by lawsuits, settlements and judicial action. Chairman Hastings said his intent was to *"make it*

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work better for both species and people," but believed it was instead *"pitting people against species."*

U.S. Rep. Jim Costa questioned a mega lawsuit filed by the Center for Biological Diversity against the EPA that could have huge affects on agriculture and America's food supply. This is one of 180 pending ESA related lawsuits.

According to Karen Budd-Falen, an attorney specializing in private property rights and rural counties and communities, *" . . . if the federal government fails to respond to a petition to list a species within the 90 day time period mandated by the ESA, an environmental group can sue and almost always get attorney fees paid. In these cases, the court is not ruling that the species is in fact threatened or endangered, but only that a deadline was missed by the FWS."* Falen is recommending that Congress require economic impact analysis be included in the Endangered Species Act.



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out. The California Geological Survey (CGS) classifies San Fernando Valley and Ventura County as an area with less than a 10 year supply based on current rates of consumption.

CALCIMA states: “Supplying aggregates is a local business. The farther away aggregates are shipped, the costlier they are for customers and taxpayers”. Aggregate products are mainly transported by trucks because of the high bulk and weight of the commodity. In California, there is an alarming trend toward longer distances of travel as local sources diminish statewide. In Ventura County, aggregate that is not produced at the two remaining facilities must come from Palmdale or Corona, 60 to 100 miles away. Increased fuel consumption, tail pipe emissions and greenhouse gasses are environmental impacts of these long transport distances. Caltrans estimates the benefits of reducing transportation distances by just 15 miles to be: 42% savings in material costs, \$12 to \$18 million dollars per year in road wear and tear and \$9 million in savings for fewer delays in material supply. While a local “Stop the Trucks” organization is advocating for less local truck traffic in the vicinity of the Ojai Quarry, the environ-

mental impact to the County as a whole of closing this quarry would be significant. It would also be a significant financial impact to County taxpayers who will pay the bill for the more expensive aggregate supply.

Many aggregate mining operations have closed in the last 10 years due to permit difficulties. CALCIMA reports that “the permitting process can be lengthy, often taking years to permit an operation. Considering that aggregate shortages have the ability to severely imperil the state’s infrastructure – our economic prosperity – **improved permitting processes are urgently needed.**”

While it is important for the County to bring mining operations into compliance, the process needs to be mindful of a project’s history, taking into account the past regulatory environment and working out reasonable technical solutions. VC COLAB is extremely concerned that this and other mining operations in the County will be subject to closure unnecessarily. This will increase costs for public works projects county-wide, impacting all residents of Ventura County.

A Planning Commission Hearing for the Mosler Quarry is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 15th., 8:30 am. ([Location and Agenda](#))



VC COLAB POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The VC COLAB PAC is up and running as a State General Purpose Committee to support and oppose candidates for California Legislative, statewide and local offices, as well as to support and oppose ballot measures that affect local Ventura County businesses. In addition, the PAC will provide policy and direction to the VC COLAB Board. Contributions can be sent to: VC COLAB PAC, P.O. Box 4237, Ventura, CA 93007.

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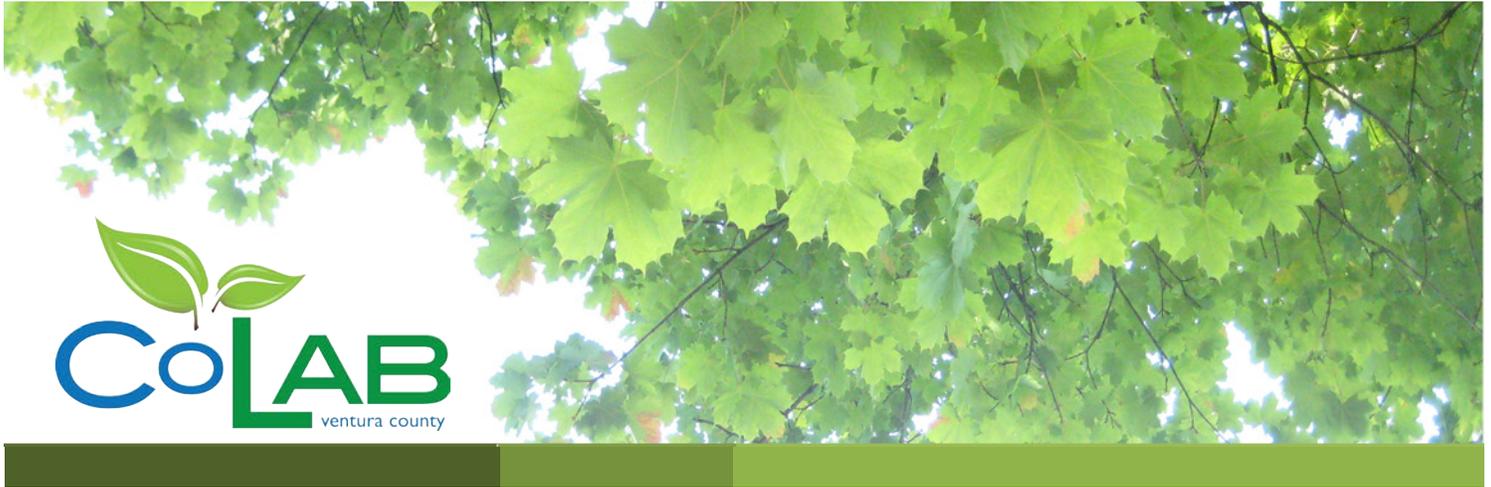
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**Ventura County Coalition of
Labor, Agriculture and Business**

P.O. Box 4237, Ventura, CA 93007

Email: membership@colabvc.org

www.colabvc.org

MEMBERSHIP FORM

I would like to apply for an Active Membership at the following level:

- \$100 Individual - Promote economic vitality and individual rights in Ventura County
- \$500 Business - Promote the common business interests of **VC COLAB** Members
- \$1,000 Gold - Further our efforts to monitor, educate and represent our common business interests
- \$1,500 Platinum - Support ongoing research to challenge harmful and unreasonable regulation
- \$2,500 Black - Advance legal and administrative action for the mutual benefit of **VC COLAB** members
- \$5,000 Benefactor - Let's make a difference in the business climate of Ventura County

Please accept my membership fee of: \$ _____

In addition I would like to contribute: \$ _____

Total contribution payable to **VC COLAB**, Inc. \$ _____

Print this form and send with a check to the P.O. Box or contribute online with PayPal

Individual or Representative (for voting) _____

Name of Business _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email Address _____

Occupation _____

How did you hear about us? _____

Reason(s) for applying for membership: _____