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# Chamber, builders exchanges lauded

By BEVERLY MEMBER

On Tuesday, the Salinas Valley Chamber, the Central Coast and Salinas Valley builders exchanges were recognized by County Administrative Officer Lew Bauman at the Monterey County Board of Supervisors meeting.

Recently, the chamber and builders exchanges have started working with the county's Resource Management Agency to streamline the county's permit process

city of Salinas' building permit process as our model and that only came about because of city staff's willingness to work with us.

We are meeting with county staff, including the department heads from planning, building, public works, water resources and environmental health every other Friday,

which is a major time commitment from our volunteers. Industry leaders include Richard Rudisill (RCA Enterprises) and a member of the county's Building and Design

Competitive Cluster), Peter Kasavan (Kasavan Architects), Nathan Stoope (Kleinfelder), Michael Waxer (AIA Association), Larry Daniels (Daniels & House), Don Chapin (Don Chapin Co.), Frank Pierce (Lee & Pierce), the executives from the Salinas Valley Chamber, Salinas Valley Builders Exchange and the Central Coast Builders Exchange.

Ernie Mill (Mill Construction) and past chairman of the chamber's board has agreed to chair the task force. Ernie was instrumental in bringing

about our success with the city. The County Streamlining Task Force will be looking at a number of topics, and at its October meetings received a presentation on the permit center and the new building permit process. In September, the county's land-use advisory committees were reviewed and potential changes discussed.

This most recent attempt is a result of the Board of Supervisors not granting requested fee increases until the efficiency of the permitting

process is in place.

We appreciate the county staff's good-faith efforts and their knowledge and perspective, which are of great value in educating the task force. Our chamber looks forward to another outstanding public-private partnership and our continued commitment to effective advocacy for business and economic development in Monterey County.

BEVERLY MEMBER is president and chief executive officer of the Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce.



Several attempts have been made to do this in the past, and the chamber indicated to the county we were only willing to move forward if this was going to be a meaningful process, and there was buy-in from the county staff. We are using our success with the streamlining of the