



JOINT POLICY COMMITTEE — REGIONAL PLANNING PROGRAM

Minutes of the Meeting of December 2, 2011 Held at 10:00 AM at the Metro Center Auditorium, Oakland

ABAG

Jane Brunner
Dave Cortese
Mark Green
Scott Haggerty
Rose Jacobs Gibson

BAAQMD

Tom Bates, Chair
Ash Kalra

BCDC

Sean Randolph
Brad Wagenknecht
Kathrin Sears

MTC

Bill Dodd
Jake Mackenzie
Jim Spering

1. Call to Order

Chair Bates called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of the Joint Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of September 16, 2011

The minutes of the September meeting were approved.

3. Progress Report on Joint Policy Committee Energy Projects

Regional Electric Vehicle Strategy

Jean Roggenkamp, BAAQMD Deputy Director, used a PowerPoint presentation to update the JPC on progress by BAAQMD, ABAG and MTC on advancing electric vehicle strategies in the region. The agencies are working to coordinate a wide range of public and private stakeholders. BAAQMD is taking the lead, in conjunction with ABAG and MTC, to develop a regional strategic plan for electric vehicles. Recent grant funding from state and federal sources will fund the strategic planning process.

Bay Area Energy Efficiency Program

Bruce Riordan, JPC Climate Consultant, used a PowerPoint Presentation to update the JPC on progress to develop a more coordinated and strategic approach to building energy efficiency activities in the Bay Area. The JPC is convening a meeting on December 12 of public, private, and non-profit stakeholders to begin sketching options for a stronger, long-term Bay Area energy efficiency program.

Local Renewable Power Strategic Plan

Bruce Riordan, JPC Climate Consultant, used a PowerPoint Presentation to update the JPC on the JPC initiative for local renewable power. The JPC staff has organized a group of local renewable power stakeholders to develop a more coordinated Bay Area program to advance what is called “distributed generation.” Mr. Riordan reported on Bay Area Local Renewable

Power Map that the JPC staff has prepared to show the many excellent projects currently underway in the region. The stakeholders group now wants to develop a strategic plan for local renewable power and would like the JPC to lead the plan's development.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the JPC staff to lead the local renewable power strategic planning process. The motion passed unanimously.

In discussion, members of the Committee considered a number of issues:

- There is a push in Alameda County to build large solar "farms" on open space in the county. These are attractive proposals from solar developers that will boost renewable energy production, but there are significant environmental issues that must also be considered.

4. Proposal to Hire Staff

Steve Heminger, MTC Executive Director, outlined the recommendation from the three executive directors to hire Will Travis as the JPC staff coordinator. Mr. Heminger noted Mr. Travis's vast experience on Bay Area regional issues and stated that he believes Mr. Travis is a very good fit for the JPC job, particularly with the next Sustainable Communities Strategy taking on economic development and climate change adaptation. The hiring proposal was for \$225,000 for 18 months with costs shared by the agencies according to available resources.

A motion to approve the staff recommendation was made and seconded.

In discussion, members of the Committee made the following statements:

- The proposal should have come to MTC and the other agencies for discussion before bringing a contract proposal to the JPC.
- Mr. Travis is the best person that could be found for this job. He has done an excellent job at BCDC and his extensive experience with public and private stakeholders, including at BACEI, will be most valuable.
- There are concerns about the policy changes that the JPC is taking on. Before hiring a coordinator, there should be a comprehensive look at the role of the JPC.
- The proposal involves a significant amount of funding and therefore should have been at least brought to MTC that is holding the contract. There are concerns about the salary and how it relates to the salary of the previous JPC staff coordinator.
- There is no prejudice against Mr. Travis, but there are significant concerns about the hiring process. Needs more discussion.
- More time is needed to discuss the role. It is inappropriate to move so quickly.
- Mr. Travis's knowledge of the issues is superb, particularly on climate change and sea level rise. He is one of the leading experts in the nation.
- No is disputing Mr. Travis's qualifications. It is the process that is the problem. There was no notice about filling this vacant position until the meeting packet arrived this week.
- Are we only going to be dealing with climate change? There are other issues that we should also be addressing.
- This proposal needs more vetting and more transparency.

The motion was withdrawn. The proposal will be taken back to each agency for discussion in December and January. The JPC will reconsider staff hiring at the January 20th meeting.

5. Progress Report on Joint Policy Committee Planning Processes

Bay Area Economic Development Strategy

Sean Randolph, BACEI Executive Director, provided an update on the JPC's Economic Development Strategy Framework. Fundraising issues have delayed the start of the project, but Mr. Randolph expects that his efforts to raise private sector funds to match MTC's offer of \$75,000 will produce results by the end of the year. Bay Area Council is now making this fundraising effort a high priority.

Climate and Energy Resilience Strategy

Bruce Riordan, JPC Climate Consultant, provided an update on the JPC's Bay Area Climate and Energy Resilience Project. The project's Advisory Group will hold its next meeting on December 8th. The project is working on a research summary on climate impacts, an outline of potential strategies, and Bay Area options for governance and financing of climate adaptation strategies.

6. Bay Plan Amendment

Will Travis, BCDC's Executive Director, provided background information and outlined the proposal for the JPC to facilitate the development of a regional sea level rise adaptation strategy. Mr. Travis explained the two and one-half year process—including 36 public hearings, meetings and workshops—that BCDC conducted to update the Bay Plan policies dealing with climate change. Mr. Travis stated that it became clear to the engaged participants that BCDC's jurisdiction concerning climate change was quite limited when compared to the scope of the climate change problems confronting the Bay Area. It was agreed, therefore, that the region needs a regional strategy for sea level rise, coupled with a strategy for the other impacts of climate change, and linked to the work to make the Bay Area more resilient and economically productive. The participants in the BCDC planning process concluded that BCDC was not the correct body to take the lead on developing such an overall regional strategy. It was proposed that the JPC was regionally positioned take the lead in facilitating this process, most likely as a part of the second Sustainable Communities Strategy, where the JPC could bring together 4 regional agencies, 9 counties, 101 cities, and hundreds of special districts and other stakeholders.

Sean Randolph, BCDC's chair provided further explanation of the proposal. He stated that as the BCDC process unfolded, it became important to many stakeholders that BCDC alone would not be making the ultimate decisions on climate change adaptation in the region, but that a longer-term, deeper process would be used to engage all relevant agencies and stakeholders. This was important to getting agencies, business groups and other stakeholders to approve the Bay Plan amendments. Mr. Randolph stated that he and the other BCDC commission members believe that JPC has the stature and regional planning role to facilitate such a strategy development process.

In discussion, members of the Committee made the following statements:

- JPC was originally formed to coordinate among the agencies and to review agency plans. This seems like we are moving away from that role and taking on a policy *making* role. It feels wrong that we are taking on new issues and responsibilities before the agencies have had a chance to discuss them, especially when we have failed to coordinate on some of the existing issues.
- This is a controversial issue and it could overshadow the original purpose of this group. Taking on this major role could distract and deflect us away from more important and critical issues that our cities are dealing with like the economy. This group should help facilitate resolution of those important issues.
- Mostly concerned that this is coming here before it is brought to our member agencies.
- This proposal is a continuance of work that this body twice voted unanimously to take on (March and May) earlier this year. We already voted to tackle economic development and climate change adaptation. This proposal is merely saying how we are going to do it.
- This feels out of sequence. The agencies should have first chance to review, discuss and comment and then send it to JPC.
- We need to figure out how to adapt to new circumstances. We are wrestling with this in our county—how to deal with transportation, land use, and other issues in the context of climate change.
- We can't have four agencies debating an issue and then bringing it here after the fact. This group should be discussing and coordinating policy.
- Yes, we have agreed to be involved with climate change. But, the discussion on this proposal should have taken place first at the agency I represent, so I have some direction. This is a tough issue and I want to know I have buy-in from the agency I represent.
- Agree that JPC should work with BCDC to do this. Good that BCDC is offering other agencies the opportunity to work on this at the beginning. JPC should be working together as one body, not just working closely together. This is a small step in that direction.
- On major issues like sea level rise and climate change, we can't speak on behalf of our boards if they have not had their own discussions. Boards will probably say yes to this role but it needs to get their buy-in. Make a presentation to each board and then they can delegate to their reps to go ahead at JPC.
- We tried very hard at BCDC to come up with a good sound policy. This policy will rub against transportation, land use, air quality, etc. so we need input from the agencies that deal with those issues. The JPC is a good place to bring this for discussion by the agencies.
- We have said before we don't want to just wait and react to agency plans. This time, we are being asked to jump in at the beginning. We should thank BCDC for that. However, for policy direction we do need direction from our boards. We will need to get boards' OK on the details of the policies later, but it is a JPC decision to take on an issue or not. Let's move forward with this topic now and take the policies back to boards at the appropriate time.

A motion was made and seconded to move forward with the proposal.

In further discussion, members of the Committee made the following statements:

- This needs to be put on the agenda at MTC. Needs discussion since it is a significant decision. I want to make sure that MTC commission is in agreement with that.
- This needs to be taken back to all three agencies that have not discussed it.
- We have discussed developing a climate adaptation strategy at two previous meetings and voted to move forward.
- Delaying is not accepted. The motion is to move forward and to take the details of the policies back to boards later for thorough discussion.
- I want this to go back to all 3 boards for discussion.

The motion was passed unanimously. The proposal will be sent back to each of the three boards for comment and will be taken up again by JPC at the January 20th meeting.

7. Regionalism in the Bay Area

Public comment:

Scott Peterson, East Bay EDA, offered comments on how to improve coordination among regional agencies and other entities in the region. East Bay EDA has been meeting with other key Bay Area business groups to coordinate their work on economic development. Several of the business groups will be speaking about these efforts at the SB 878 hearing in San Francisco. Mr. Peterson stated that while it is critical that economic development be addressed in all regional planning efforts, the JPC may not be the right body to take the lead in creating a Bay Area economic development strategy.

Paul Campos, Building Industry Association, presented ideas on regionalism and strengthening the JPC. Mr. Campos quoted from a 2005 JPC memo that describes the JPC's coordinating role for the production of agency planning documents. Mr. Campos stated that he would like to see the JPC become a very important and high-level regional forum for coordinated Bay Area planning.

Chair Bates explained SB 878 that would request the JPC to produce three reports on Bay Area regionalism and outlined the upcoming hearings on the bill in the San Francisco and Oakland. He stated that he has been asked to testify and could do so as either (a) a representative of the JPC if there is a consensus of opinion, or (b) as the Mayor of Berkeley who has considerable Bay Area experience. Mr. Bates discussed the importance of regions like the Bay Area taking more control over their future development.

Sean Randolph, BACEI Executive Director, outlined a study done every two years for the BACEI by McKinsey & Company on economic development issues for the region. This year's report, now in an advanced draft stage, will include a look at regional governance. How could the Bay Area take more responsibility for its future? How will we make decisions as a region to help move the Bay Area forward? The report will include a review of how other metro regions worldwide are approaching governance. The study will be published in the first quarter of 2012 and is intended to "tee up" the issues for regional discussion in 2012.

Egon Terplan, SPUR Regional Planning Director, outlined a current SPUR study on regional governance and regional agency representation, including issues raised in AB 57. The study will look at current governance issues and how governance changes might affect regional thinking. He described in more detail the issues raised in AB 57 about MTC representation.

Julie Sinai, City of Berkeley, outlined a UC Berkeley proposal that would use existing and new research to examine Bay Area regionalism.

In discussion, members of the Committee made the following statements:

- We need the studies on regional governance to be prescriptive so they will get noticed and discussed.
- San Jose and Santa Clara County have been underrepresented on Bay Area regional agencies.
- Let's focus more discussion on what decisions need to be made and less on who makes the decisions and how we are organized. Let's focus more on the economic decisions that are critical to our future.
- Who in the region is working with Senator DeSaulnier on his bill? This group needs to provide input on the bill.
- The economic development role in the region is critical.

The members of the JPC directed Chair Bates to testify at the SB 878 hearings that the legislation is premature and should not move forward at this time.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at Noon.