

**LEGISLATION AND GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE  
ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS**

**Thursday, January 17, 2002**

**Summary Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Maria Alegria—Pinole Councilmember  
Irma Anderson—Richmond Councilmember  
Bill Carroll—Solano County Supervisor  
Scott Haggerty—Chair, Alameda County Supervisor  
Mary Lou Holt—Mayor, Town of Yountville  
Rose Jacobs Gibson, San Mateo County Supervisor  
Julia Miller—Sunnyvale Vice Mayor  
Gwen Regalia—Walnut Creek Mayor Pro Tem  
Dick Spees—Oakland Councilmember

*Also Present:*

Patricia Jones – ABAG  
Kathleen Cha—ABAG  
Eugene Leong—ABAG  
Jennifer Krebbs—ABAG  
Steve Rabinowitsh—Councilmember, City of Santa Rosa  
Robert Oakes—Representing Senator Tom Torlakson  
Pamela Evans—Alameda County Environmental Dept.  
Nabil Al-Hadithy—City of Berkeley  
Michael Green—Center for Environmental Health  
Davis Baltz—Commonweal  
Catherine Porter—Women’s Cancer Resource Center  
Craig Johns—Partnership for Sound Science in Environmental Policy  
Eric Zell—Zell & Associates  
Sarah Boyd—Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition  
Ethel Dotson—CBE  
John Marshall—Chemical Industry Council of California  
Jim Jakel—Contra Costa Council

**1. Introductions:**

Committee Chair, Supervisor Scott Haggerty, opened the meeting with introductions at 3:40 with a quorum present. 20 members of the public were in attendance and nine spoke during the public comment period.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from November 15, 2001, meeting were approved.

**3. Update on Bay Area Dioxins Task Force Report on Pollution Prevention Options:**

Jennifer Krebs, Senior Environmental Planner, gave an update on the report Dioxins pollution prevention options report, titled **Screening Evaluation of Pollution Prevention Projects**. She indicated that, as recommended by the committee, a general disclaimer was put on the technical report and on the website.

- Pamela Evans, Alameda County Environmental Program and Dioxins Task Force Member, reiterated the value of this report for giving options, and practical, basis information on the cost and logistics of implementing pollution prevention options. Nabil Al-Hadithy, City of Berkeley and Dioxins Task Force Member, confirmed the importance of the document and its research to jurisdictions who want to address this problem, but do not have the budget or staff to research its implications.
- Nine speakers from the public participated. Statements were from business, public agencies, community health advocates, and community interest groups. Those supporting the report voiced their frustration with the delay of approving it and their belief that the distribution and implementation of the report should begin

immediately. Those in opposition, representing industry groups and organizations, reiterated that they do not agree with the report sources, and some of the recommendations or pollution prevention options proposed. Those opposed also expressed concern that ABAG's name was on the report and wanted a disclaimer that they had written put on the report and that the report should not be available on the website.

- Committee members expressed general support of the report but were concerned that the report did not address all the Bay Area high priority dioxin issues. They wanted more detailed information on the Bay Area top emission sources –wood burning and mobil sources—and prevention options and ordinances that cities and counties could use.

**Action: To resolve this ongoing issue, Vice Mayor Julia Miller moved and Councilmember Dick Spees seconded:** That the Screening Evaluations report be sent to Bay Air Quality Management District for their review for completeness and accuracy, with the hope that their report would be available by the next L&GO meeting in March. The Committee unanimously agreed .

#### **4. Legislative Highlights:**

**The Committee discussed the new Bill introduced by Senator Tom Torlakson, SB 1243,** which proposes that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and ABAG conduct a study on the feasibility of merging the functions of MTC and ABAG into a new regional government commission. The bill stipulates that ABAG and MTC make a report on this study to the legislature by January 1, 2004.

- Robert Oakes, Senior Policy Adviser for Senator Torlakson, was on hand and relayed Senator Torlakson's wish to move this bill and ABAG's and MTC's feasibility study forward.

**Action: The Committee moved to recommend support of SB 1243.**

**Late addition to the agenda:** Senator Dunn's new bill, SB 369, was brought before the Committee at the recommendation of ABAG Financial Services and the California Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies **as urgency legislation.** SB 369 is being finalized now and addresses the reenactment of Health and Safety code sections that have been sunseted. These sections grant authority to cities, counties and joint power authorities to issue multi-family housing revenue bonds. This authority is crucial to jurisdictions' ability to provide low income and affordable housing in California.

**Action: The Committee moved to support SB 369.** Sample letters of support were distributed to the Committee so that individual jurisdictions could voice their support as soon as possible.

**Additional information:** The next L&GO Committee meeting on March 21 will address in more detail current legislative priorities and will elect a new chair and vice chair for the committee.

#### **5. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

**Next Meeting: May 16, 2002, 3:30-5 pm, MetroCenter, ABAG Conference Room B**