

LEGISLATION AND GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE
Thursday, May 17, 2001
Summary Minutes

Members Present:

Maria Alegria—Pinole Councilmember
Bill Carroll – Solano County Supervisor
Carole Dillon-Knutson—Novato Councilmember
Rose Jacobs Gibson – San Mateo County Supervisor
Scott Haggerty—Chair, Alameda County Supervisor
Carol Klatt—Daly City Vice Mayor
Julia Miller—Sunnyvale Councilmember
George Pettygrove—Fairfield Mayor
Dick Spees – Oakland Councilmember

Also Present:

Patricia Jones – ABAG
Kathleen Cha – ABAG
Jeanne Perkins—ABAG

1. Introductions

Committee Chair, Supervisor Scott Haggerty, opened the meeting with introductions at 3:45 p.m. with a quorum present. No public was present.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the March 15, 2001, meeting were approved.

3. Request for a Resolution Supporting Funding of Golden Gate National Parks

The Committee voted to support the resolution being proposed before the Executive Board to seek restoration of funding from Congress for the Golden Gate National Parks. This is in recognition of Golden Gate National Park's regional value and significance with lands in three counties, adjacent to 11 municipalities.

4. FEMA Insurance Proposal for Mandatory Insurance for Public Buildings

- Jeanne Perkins, ABAG Earthquake Program Manager, gave a short summary of past efforts to pass mandated natural hazards insurance. FEMA had tried to pass this same proposal by Executive Order and via legislative action. These methods failed last year because of many objections received, especially from California, stating that such a self insurance proposal was impractical and cost prohibitive, with a disproportionate impact on non-flood disaster areas, especially on earthquake and volcano-prone areas.

- The Committee moved to oppose the current proposal by FEMA to mandate natural hazards insurance for local, state and public agencies through the federal budget process. This opposition reaffirmed past efforts by the committee and ABAG to defeat the proposal.
- It was also requested that local jurisdictions write letters once again opposing the mandated insurance. Staff was directed to create a template resolution for city and county use, which would outline reasons for opposition.

5. Review of Legislation

The L&GO Committee took positions on the following bills, which focused on land-use, housing, fiscal tax reform, environment and energy.

Housing:

SB 600 Torlakson: Transit Village Plan—SUPPORT

SB 1227 Burton: Housing Bond Act of 2002—SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT that assistance should go to those that have met housing goals.

AB 369 Dutra: Affordable Housing Development --OPPOSE There were committee members who argued that this bill was an effort to move our housing agenda forward for creating more affordable housing using the courts, while the majority contended that it was too punitive and did not recognize the real barriers that jurisdictions have to overcome.

SB 910 Dunn/Burton/Haynes/Monteith: Housing Elements—Fines/Penalties/ Lawsuits—OPPOSE

There was much discussion that housing elements and plans need to be carried out and not all jurisdictions have complied. Final general committee consensus was that offering incentives and assistance was the better method for addressing housing needs, not punitive measures.

Transportation

AB 227 Longville: Transportation Funding—Sales Tax on Gasoline—SUPPORT

ACA 9 Dutra: Transportation Funding---Sales Tax on Gasoline—SUPPORT

Fiscal Tax Reform Legislation

AB 745 Cox: State-Mandated Local Programs—SUPPORT

AB 1013 Leonard: Commercial Property Tax Reassessment—SUPPORT

SB30X Brulte: Property Tax Incentives for Siting Electricity Plants—SUPPORT

ACA 10 Cogdill: Local Government Finance—Property Tax Revenue allocation-local agency relief—Support

Environment/Earthquake Related Legislation:

SB 1069 Chesbro: Plastic Pollution Prevention Fee—SUPPORT

AB 1118 Corbett: Seismic Safety—Insurance/Tax Credits/Retrofitting—Will CO-SPONSOR

SB 355 Escutia: Liability—Construction Defects--SUPPORT

SB 717 Speier: California Seismic Safety Bond Act of 2002--SUPPORT

Energy

AB 1724 Pavley: Public Utilities—Reliable Electric Service Investments—Credits for Renewable Energy—SUPPORT

Other Bills Considered:

SB 10 Soto: California's Safe Routes to School—Support

AB 680 Steinberg: Land Use and Air Emission Reduction Credits—Referred to Bay Area Air Quality Management District for review and report

OTHER COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

- The Committee also directed staff to pursue a bill author or legislation regarding permanently “securing Vehicle License Fees as a funding source.”
- It was proposed that the Dioxins Task Force report on actions and present any reports as appropriate at the next meeting in July, as a timely follow-up to recommendations made last year for the formation of this sub-committee.
- The meeting closed with a short discussion of the May Revise of the Governor's Budget, focusing in particular on the proposed budget cuts to Local Government and the Department of Housing and Community Development.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

Next Meeting: July 19, 2001, 3:30-5pm, MetroCenter, ABAG Conference Room B