

LEGISLATION AND GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE
Thursday, November 15, 2001
Summary Minutes

Members Present:

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

Also Present:

Patricia Jones – ABAG
Kathleen Cha—ABAG
Eugene Leong—ABAG
Jennifer Krebbs—ABAG
Michael Arnold—Legislative Advocate
Kelly Moran—Environmental Consultant/TDC
Brian Bateman—BAAQMD
Nabil Achasithy—City of Berkeley
Davis Baltz—Commonweal
Sue Chiang—Greenaction
Jamie Henderson—Oakland Chamber of Commerce
Craig Johns—Partnership for Sound Science in Environmental Policy
Niko Letunic—City of Oakland Public Works
John Marshall—Chemical Industry Council of California
Peter McGaw—Contra Costa Council
Dr. Jay Murray—Murray & Associates
Catherine Porter—Women’s Cancer Resource Center
Katie Silberman—Center for Environmental Health
Michael Green—Center for Environmental Health

1. Introductions:

Committee Chair, Supervisor Scott Haggerty, opened the meeting with introductions at 3:45 with a quorum present. 20 members of the public were in attendance and ten spoke during the public comment period.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from September 20th meeting were approved.

3. Legislative Highlights—2001 Legislative Year

Michael Arnold, Legislative Advocate, briefly addressed the past legislative year providing a status summary of bills monitored by the L&GO Committee. He spotlighted the enormous interest and controversy over SB 910, Dunn’s Housing Element Bill, which has now become a two-year bill. A SB 910 Working Group has been convened to reach agreement on changes to housing element process and to develop an effective enforcement mechanism for housing element compliance, with the goal of modifying and re-submitting SB 910.

He commented that the State Budget is in total tailspin with recent announcements that a \$14 billion dollar deficit is estimated for 2002-03 fiscal year and that Governor Davis will cut \$2 billion in state spending previously appropriated for this current fiscal year.

4. Report (Pollution Prevention Options) Update from Bay Area Dioxins Task Force

The follow-up discussion of the Dioxins pollution prevention options report, titled *Screening Evaluation of Pollution Prevention Projects*, took up the remainder of the Committee meeting.

- Jennifer Krebs, Senior Environmental Planner, gave an update on the report and the three dioxin pollution prevention projects the Bay Area Dioxins Task Force and participating agencies are pursuing: Diesel Alternatives, Medical Waste, and paper and PVC alternatives purchasing.
- Dr. Kelly Moran, Environmental Consultant to the Task Force, commented and answered questions about the report, its scope and process.
- Brian Bateman, Manager of the Toxic Evaluation Section of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, also gave a report on dioxins, testing, findings and the latest emissions Inventory updating, comparing Bay Area Status with EPA emissions inventories. The top emission sources in the Bay Area are mobil sources and residential wood burning.
- After multiple questions from the Committee on dioxins priorities, effectiveness of the proposed solutions and purpose of the report, 10 speakers from the public participated. Statements were from business, public agencies, community health advocates and community interest groups. The comments were split between proceeding with the distribution/implementation of the report and opposition because they did not agree with sources, recommendations or pollution prevention options. Those opposed expressed concern that ABAG’s name was on the report.
- **Consensus of the Committee** was that a special session was needed to answer the questions about the process and scope of the pollution prevention recommendations, This special session will be scheduled within the next few weeks.
- **Action:** As a result, it was moved, seconded and passed to take the Dioxins Task Force Report off the Executive Agenda until the review discussion was concluded.

- **Action:** It was also moved, seconded and passed that there should be a disclaimer on the report, which is posted on the ABAG website, that it is a work in progress with more study continuing as facilitated by ABAG.

5. Update on Fiscal Tax Relief Ballot Measure

The meeting concluded with a brief announcement regarding the fiscal tax reform initiative proposed by the coalition that includes LCC, CSAC and Special Districts Association. The Initiative has been submitted to Attorney General Lockyer's office for the November 2002 ballot and is now titled the *Local Revenue Accountability Act*.

- However, Novato Councilmember Carole Dillon-Knutson noted that a potentially conflicting initiative being proposed by the Special Districts/Police and Fire had just arisen and could have a negative affect on the Local Revenue Constitutional Amendment. As information is available, this discussion and others about new fiscal relief strategies will be taken up at the next L&GO meeting.

6. Discussion of Senate Select Committee Hearing on ABAG and MTC Merger

This update on the Bay Area Infrastructure Committee hearing was postponed until the next L&GO meeting.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Next Meeting: January 17, 2002, 3:30-5pm, MetroCenter, ABAG Conference Room B