

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

**Thursday, November 19, 2009
Summary Minutes**

Members Present:

Supervisor Dave Cortese, County of Santa Clara, ABAG Immediate Past President
Councilmember Carole Dillon-Knutson, City of Novato, *Chair*
Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson, County of San Mateo, ABAG President
Mayor Jack Gingles, City of Calistoga
Mayor Mark Green, Union City, ABAG Vice President
Supervisor Scott Haggerty, County of Alameda
Supervisor Mark Luce, County of Napa
Vice Mayor Pete McHugh, City of Milpitas
Mayor Pam Torliatt, City of Petaluma

Staff Present:

Patricia Jones—ABAG
Ezra Rapport – ABAG
Kathleen Cha – ABAG
Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi
Stewart Baker, City/County of San Francisco
Tom Guarino – PG&E
Marguerite Leone – PG&E

1. **Introductions:** Novato Councilmember Carole Dillon-Knutson, L&GO Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:40.
2. **Minutes:** September 17, 2009, minutes were approved.
3. **Discussion of Legislative Priorities for 2010 Legislative Session**

The committee proposed the following 2010 Legislative Priorities:

- **Pursue state and federal legislation addressing focused integrated planning and environmentally healthy communities**
 - That includes aggressively pursuing legislation addressing Extended Producer Responsibility and waste disposal, and hazardous waste issues.
 - That also includes closely tracking legislation addressing water planning and supply, the Peripheral Canal and Delta Solution.
- **Pursue resources and incentives for planning, infrastructure, and services to assist local governments, and related climate change and land use solutions.**
 - Continue legislative partnership with MTC on these issues.

- **Support Long term Financial Disaster Recovery Planning Initiative**
This issue area would also include pursuing support of legislation and/or funding of Community Based Organization networks and their disaster services, working with the nonprofit agency CARD (Collaborating Agencies Responding to Disasters) to support and extend the model throughout the region’s counties and cities.
- **Support Finance legislation that includes balanced revenue streams and fiscal reform**
 - Continue work with the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties on structural budget reform. Stay abreast of proposals on Constitutional Convention.
- **Seek a Constitutional amendment to lower the vote requirements for local sales taxes and local infrastructure bonds.**
- **Seek state and federal legislation establishing innovative financing and project delivery mechanisms.**
 - Work to ensure that, where a Regional Blueprint has been adopted, consistency with regional blueprints is a consideration in allocation of bond funds from State agencies and in the development of legislation and state agency policies on climate change, while upholding local flexibility and authority.
 - Continue to work on legislation that would ensure that COGs, MPOs, and other affected regional planning agencies receive sufficient funds to fulfill obligations under SB 375 through State decisions allocating funds from Proposition 84 for planning, in accordance with SB 732. This would include funding to reimburse COGs for Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) compliance costs.
 - Seek permanent funding for COG, MPO, and local governments for SB 375 obligations.
 - Seek funding/stimulus funds that would support regional agency infrastructure, like agency building energy efficiency retrofit and possible joint regional agency building.

Monitor unfunded state mandates of local programs and fiscal impacts on local governments—This underlying issue will be used to evaluate legislation.

4. Review of Proposed PG&E-Sponsored Ballot Initiative:

PG&E representatives Tom Guarino and Marguerite Leone presented an overview of their ballot initiative entitled: *“New Two Thirds Vote Requirement for Local Public Electricity Provider Initiative.”*

The proposed initiative “would require a public power provider in California to obtain a 2/3 majority vote in both its existing and proposed areas for expansion, before it could spend any public funds for that

expansion.” This would be a Constitutional Amendment. They emphasized three points in their presentation:

First: that the initiative focuses on obtaining 2/3 voter approval on new projects if any public funds or bonds are used—that is before providing electricity to new customers or expanding such service to new territories.

Second: that renewable energy projects were exempt.

Third: that this proposal supports budget efficiency.

5. Proposals Regarding State Legislative Reform

The Committee received informational flyers from Repair California, California Forward, and from the League/CSAC/CA School Boards Association on State Budget and Fiscal Reform and Constitutional Convention Ballot measures.

6. Discussion of Model Ordinance: Pre-Tax Commuter Benefits

San Francisco Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi and Stewart Baker provided information and background on the Pre-Tax Commuter Benefits ordinance enacted in San Francisco, which required employers to offer a pre-tax commuter benefits program to encourage employees to use public transit or van pools.

After committee discussion, the committee recommended that the Executive Board propose/distribute a Pre-Tax Commuter Benefits model ordinance for the region’s jurisdictions to review and adapt.

7. 2010 LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION:

Based on the outstanding success of last year’s reception and opportunities for networking with legislators around the state, the committee agreed to host in January a 2010 Legislative Reception. Date and the Sacramento site will be finalized within the next few weeks following the L&GO meeting.

- **Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m. The next meeting: **January 21, 2010.**