

Attachment 1 Draft of September 14, 2009 Minutes



County of Santa Barbara Meeting of the Legislative Program Committee

MINUTES

Date: September 14, 2009

Time: 9:30-11:00 AM

Place: **Board of Supervisors Conference Room, Fourth Floor**
105 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara

Committee Members: Salud Carbajal, First District Supervisor
Janet Wolf, Second District Supervisor
Michael Brown, County Executive Officer
Robert Geis, Auditor-Controller
Dennis A. Marshall, County Counsel

**Members present: Supervisor Carbajal, Supervisor Wolf and Dennis Marshall.
Bob Geis and Michael Brown were absent.**

Public Comment

No public comment received.

Action Items:

1. Approve minutes from the August 21, 2009 meeting (Attachment 1: Draft 8/21/09 minutes).

Motion to approve the minutes made by Supervisor Carbajal. Supervisor Wolf seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0-1.

2. Receive an update on federal issues of interest to the County and direct staff to take action as necessary. (Attachment 2: Washington Updates from Tom Walters and Associates, Inc).

Tom Walters provided an update on federal issues of interest to the County. Congress has just returned from the August recess and will continue to work on appropriations and healthcare reform. The House has finished 12 appropriation bills and the Senate has finished only six bills. The House appropriations include \$500,000 for Goleta Beach and the Senate includes \$250,000 for Lower Mission Creek. Pat Wheatley, the Director of the Santa Barbara County First 5, commented on children's' health issues in the context of federal healthcare reform. Kathy

Gallagher, the Director of Santa Barbara County's Department of Social Services, asked if the healthcare reform proposals included any information on how counties are to verify citizenship to determine Medicaid eligibility.

3. Consider whether to take a position of support for HR 3525 (Thompson). According to the summary by the Congressional Research Service, this bill amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow a tax exemption of the interest on bonds issued to finance renewable energy resource facilities, conservation and efficiency facilities and projects, and zero emission vehicles and related facilities or projects. (Attachment 3: Text of HR 3525, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Resolution in Support of HR 3525, Sonoma County Brief on AB811)
<http://www.thomas.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/D?d111:1:/temp/~bdZrQC:@@L&summ2=m&/bss/111search.html>)

Ms. Friedrichsen addressed the Committee. HR 3535 is sponsored by Sonoma County in an effort to create tax-exempt financing for the implementation of AB811- creation of financing districts for energy and water efficiency projects and renewable energy retrofits. The AB811 program is voluntary and the federal legislation will help lower the interest rates citizens that participate in the AB811 program pay. Motion to support HR 3525 was made by Supervisor Wolf. Supervisor Carbajal seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0-1.

4. Receive an update on efforts calling for a Constitutional Convention and direct staff to take action as necessary. (Attachment 4: Article entitled "Major Reform Efforts Move Forward" from the 8/21/09 Legislative Bulletin published by CSAC, copy of CA Forward 8/13/09 letter to Governor and Legislative Leadership, Copies of titles, for Initiative 09-0018, *Changes Constitution to Allow Voters to Call a Constitutional Convention with an Initiative*, and Initiative 09-0019, *Calls A Convention to Draft a New State Constitution*)
http://www.imakenews.com/eletra/mod_print_view.cfm?this_id=1523589&u=csac&show_issue_date=F&issue_id=000386266&lid=bq0vT7w&uid=bdjV3f3n)

Ms. Friedrichsen addressed the Committee. Since the Local Government Summit on State Governance and Fiscal Reform in July, California Forward issued a letter to the Governor and legislative leadership outlining 11 proposals for reform. Some counties have begun to hold local summits on the concept of Rebuilding California. Supervisor Wolf indicated that a constituent in her district is interested in holding a forum on this topic. Ms. Friedrichsen informed the Committee that while California Forward and Bay Area Council have been leading the debate on this topic thus far, a different group known as the California Action Network, has filed two initiatives with the CA Secretary of State: (1) change the constitution to allow voters to call a constitutional convention and (2) calls a convention to draft a new constitution. Committee members discussed the merits of finding a solution to fixing issues at the State and thought that some of the proposed reforms could go before the voters as initiatives rather than calling for a

convention. Concerns were raised regarding the scope of a convention and that it may go beyond the fiscal and governance issues.

5. Receive an update on the implementation of the State's July 28, 2009 adopted budget, other issues being considered by the State and the status of County sponsored-bills and direct staff to take action as necessary. (Attachment 5: State Update from Governmental Advocates, Inc.)
 - i. AB359 (Nava): Breast and cervical cancer: early detection screening: digital mammography reimbursement rates (County sponsor/support)
(http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/asm/ab_0351-0400/ab_359_bill_20090715_amended_sen_v96.pdf)
 - ii. SB619 (Strickland): Flood control: County of Santa Barbara: Lower Mission Creek (County sponsor/support)
(http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/sen/sb_0601-0650/sb_619_bill_20090413_amended_sen_v98.pdf)
 - iii. AB50 (Nava): Disaster relief (County support)
(http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/asm/ab_0001-0050/ab_50_bill_20090624_amended_sen_v95.pdf)

Governmental Advocates provided an update on State issues, noting that the Legislature did not reach a deal on water issues nor did the Senate pass key pieces of legislation such as SB67, the Proposition 1A implementation and securitization "clean up" legislation before the end of the session on Saturday morning, September 12, 2009. The Legislature will need to reconvene- this could be in the last two weeks to sometime in the fall to finalize legislation. A motion to authorize the Chair of the County's Board of Supervisor to write a letter to Senators Steinberg, Maldonado and Strickland urging the Senate to reconvene and pass SB67 was made by Supervisor Wolf. Supervisor Carbajal seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0-1. Governmental Advocates informed the Committee that both AB359 and SB619 were passed by the Legislature and being forwarded to the Governor for signature. AB50 will continue as a two-year bill. Homeowners affected by disasters will receive property tax relief; however, neither businesses nor counties will receive assistance for the loss of property taxes.

6. Receive an update on AB 1536 (Blakeslee) relating to oil and gas leases and determine whether to take a position on this bill. (Attachment 6) http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/asm/ab_1501-1550/ab_1536_bill_20090908_amended_sen_v94.html

Governmental Advocates explained that AB1536 did not move out of Rules Committee. This bill received opposition in the Assembly. While the bill is dormant, it is not gone and could potential reemerge when the Legislature reconvenes. Supervisor Wolf commented that, while the Board of Supervisors supported that PXP Tranquillion Ridge project, it did so under the current process and structure. AB 1536 circumvents the process of a project being heard by the

State Lands Commission. Supervisor Carbajal commented that the Board of Supervisors should consider its options and strategies regarding this project in the future, but it should not be tied to the State budget. Supervisor Carbajal also indicated that he has written a letter of opposition against AB 1536. A motion to bring AB 1536 to the Board of Supervisors to consider opposing the bill was made by Supervisor Wolf. Supervisor Carbajal seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0-1.

7. Receive an update on ABx4 7 (Evans), Public social services: statewide enrollment process that authorizes the State to implement a centralized statewide eligibility and enrollment process for CalWORKs, Medi-Cal and SNAP (food stamps) and direct staff to take action as necessary (http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/asm/ab_0001-0050/abx4_7_bill_20090728_chaptered.pdf)

Kathy Gallagher, the Director of Santa Barbara County's Department of Social Services, addressed the Committee and explained that this bill was a budget trailer and already signed by the Governor as part of the budget process in late July so there was no time to take a position. Supervisor Carbajal asked how the County's delegation voted on this bill. Mrs. Gallagher indicated that all representatives voted for it because it was part of the budget package. Currently there are four statewide systems, three statewide and one for Los Angeles County, and the bill does have some merit in terms of creating efficiencies. However, the bill detracts from local control and Mrs. Gallagher recommended that the Committee oppose the implementation of a centralized privatized statewide eligibility determination and case management process for these programs and support increasing efficiencies with automated enrollment and technologies via a single statewide system, but retain eligibility determination processes at the local county level. A motion for Mrs. Gallagher to work with staff to bring a letter to the Board of Supervisors for consideration that recommends opposing the implementation but also includes alternatives for achieving efficiencies and savings was made by Supervisor Carbajal. Supervisor Wolf seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0-1.

8. (Receive an update on the Healthy Families program, including an update on AB1422 (Bass), the CA Children and Families Act of 1998, that would increase the premiums paid by Healthy Families program enrollees and direct staff to take action as necessary as well as information on Centralization/Privatization of Public Assistance Programs (Attachment 7)
http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/asm/ab_1401-1450/ab_1422_bill_20090825_amended_sen_v96.pdf)

Ms. Friedrichsen informed the Committee that language was inadvertently carried from item 7 to item 8 and that AB 1422 does not contain language on centralization or privatization. Ms. Miller of Governmental Advocates informed

the Committee that the Governor signed this bill. The bill had support by CSAC and other governments, but the support was considered lukewarm. The bill is a short-term solution to allow 700,000 families to remain on the health plan. The bill needed to be signed quickly in light of the flu season approaching. The bill will increase the co-payment amount by 2-3% for families as well as 2-3% for insurance companies. Supervisor Wolf commented that this bill is an example of a compromise. Supervisor Carbajal requested that staff provide information on what the rate increase will mean to the families in the County enrolled in Healthy Families. Kathy Gallagher, the Director of Santa Barbara County's Department of Social Services, indicated that the bill had implication for CenCal and that this issue would be brought to the CenCal Board soon.

Next Meeting: October 9, 2009 from 10-11:30 a.m.

“Writings that are a public record under Government Code § 54957.5(a) and that relate to an agenda item for open session of a regular meeting of the County Legislative Program Committee and that are distributed to a majority of the members of the County Legislative Program Committee less than 72 hours prior to that meeting shall be available for public inspection at Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board at 105 E. Anapamu Street, 4th Floor in Santa Barbara, and also on the County's website at <http://www.countyofsbq.org/ceo/legis.aspx?id=308>”