

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was requested on any item except Item 9A. Public comment on Item 9A will be taken immediately after Item 5. There was no general public comment.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President King welcomed Councilmember Ken Slavens, City of St. Helena, who was attending for the first time.

King alerted each board member to the revised agenda placed on the table in front of them. Without objection, the agenda order was changed placing Item 9A after Item 5, to accommodate the public and their interest in Bay Area gasoline pricing

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In addition to the written material in the packet, Eugene Leong, ABAG Executive Director, reported that ABAG, along with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and California Air Resources Board went on record as opposing the Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to redesignate the Bay Area to non-attainment for ozone. We will continue to work with EPA's Regional Administrator, Felicia Marcus, as we attempt to satisfactorily resolve this issue.

Leong highlighted the announcement of five new Bay Trail projects totaling \$800,000 that will result in approximately 10 additional miles of Bay Trail being completed.

Discussions continue with the Bay Area Regional Drug Court Network to explore possible areas of cooperation.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of Executive Board Summary Minutes

Board approved Summary Minutes of Meeting No. 298, January 15, 1998.

B. Grant Applications

Board approved transmittal of federal grant applications to the State Clearinghouse. An updated list was distributed at the meeting.

C. ABAG Appointments

The Board approved President King's request for the following appointments:

Bay Conservation & Development Commission

Rosemary Corbin, City of Richmond

Susan Leal, City & County of San Francisco

Bay Area Economic Forum

Stan Kawczynski, City of Sunnyvale

D. Authorization to Amend Cooperative Agreement with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The Board authorized the Executive Director to amend this cooperative agreement to continue to provide public involvement, technical, and administrative support for the San Francisco Estuary Project. Previously approved in 1997 for \$228,150, the Board authorized an increase in the budget by \$240,000 and an extension of the agreement until December 31, 1999. ABAG will provide matching funds in the amount of \$13,333.

E. Authorization to Submit a Proposal to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Board approved request to submit a proposal and, if accepted, to enter into a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a demonstration project to develop a process and permit application form that consolidates federal, state, and local permits for construction/fill projects in Bay Area wetlands. The proposal will not exceed \$106,000 for work to be performed in 1998-99. ABAG will provide matching funds in the amount of \$6,000.

F. Authorization to Submit a Proposal to Taipei City, Taiwan, ROC

The Board approved request to submit a proposal and, if accepted, to enter into a technical assistance agreement with Taipei City, Taiwan for consulting services in regional growth management, redevelopment, intergovernmental cooperation and coordination, and local government finance. The proposal will not exceed \$90,000 for work to be performed between May-October, 1998; no local match is required.

G. Authorization to Submit a Proposal to U. S. Department of Justice

Board authorized the Executive Director, or his designee, to submit a proposal and, if accepted, to enter into an agreement with the Drug Court Program Office of the U.S. Department of Justice for the development and implementation of web-based technological links between Bay Area Drug Courts currently operating in six counties. The proposal will not exceed \$300,000 for work to be performed for 12 months starting in October 1998. A local match of 25 percent in-kind services and cash is required.

It was moved by Regalia/S/Haggerty/C/ that the consent calendar be approved.

9. LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Bay Area Gasoline Pricing

Gasoline prices, although falling, are up to 30 percent higher in the Bay Area than in other parts of the country. Supervisor Michael Yaki, City and County of San Francisco, presented legislation to the L&GO Committee that he introduced to the City and County of San Francisco. The following speakers, both for and against divorcement, addressed the Board about Bay Area gasoline prices:

Jan Speelman	Frances Williams	Jess Flores	Fred Esfandiary
Leslie Kaplan	Krestine Jordan	Nik Tali	Edgar Madriaga
N. Ravan	Romeo Garcia	Julie Davis	Dennis DeCota
Angelo Siracusa	Mike Niakan	Rod Akky	Farood Khan
Michael Sellam	Jaime Rodriguez	Troy McCoy	Ahmad Moheb
Anita Mangels	Evelyn Poquez	Tom Almond	
Parviz Darabi	Vikki Green	Rosa Munoz	

Supervisor Michael Yaki, City & County of San Francisco, urged the Board to support the recommendations from the L&GO Committee on gas pricing and for ABAG to continue to speak out on important regional issues.

Chair Jane Bartke, City of El Cerrito, presented the following motions, recommended by the L&GO Committee:

Motion 1

ABAG will continue to study the issue of gas prices in the Bay Area and report back to the L&GO Committee. ABAG will also ask the Bay Area Economic Forum to study the issue of gas prices in the Bay Area and report back to the L&GO Committee at its next meeting on Thursday, April 16, 1998.

Motion 2

ABAG will send a letter to the Federal Trade Commission calling for an anti-trust investigation related to gas prices in the Bay Area.

Bartke moved that both motions be approved /S/Specs/C/. Mayor David Fleming, City of Vacaville, did not participate in the discussion or vote on the gasoline pricing issue.

Additional questions about gasoline pricing should be referred to Michelle Fadelli, ABAG Communications Manager, for further research.

President King passed the gavel to Vice President, Doris Morse, who moderated the remainder of the meeting.

6. SONOMA-MARIN MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE STUDY

Phil Erickson, Calthorpe Associates, provided an overview of this collaborative project that looked at the linkages between land use and transportation to solve problems of congestion and growth in Marin and Sonoma counties. The preferred plan focuses on the Highway 101 corridor which has a parallel rail right-of-way and would include the following components:

- involve public in decision-making – public officials, citizens, and building community;
- draw civic orientation around transit stops with small scale mixed-use buildings;
- draw small scale employment to transit stops and use as a buffer to residential areas;
- build a variety of housing types and higher density types; and
- gradually move out to small lot, single family homes.

Supervisor Harry Moore, County of Marin, spoke about funding and how to get local groups to willingly participate in the process while keeping the project centered. Supervisor James Harberson, County of Sonoma, spoke about solving very political issues that involve the state and federal government.

7. INTER-REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP (IRP) – A MULTI-COUNTY INITIATIVE

Supervisors Scott Haggerty, County of Alameda, and Mark DeSaulnier, County of Contra Costa, explained the origins of this partnership and pointed out that discussions would be concentrated on improvement in jobs/housing, transportation, and related air quality issues.

The proposed makeup of the IRP, includes Alameda, Contra Costa, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Santa Clara counties. Representation would include a supervisor from each county along with one city council member from two cities in each county. Gary Binger, ABAG Planning Director noted that staff support would be provided by ABAG, San Joaquin County COG, and Stanislaus County COG. ABAG resources would come from a subregional grant from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

8. 1998 SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Gary Binger, Deputy Executive Director, ABAG, invited the Board to attend the Spring General Assembly on Friday, April 17 at the Berkeley Marina Radisson. The Urban Land Institute is co-sponsoring the Spring General Assembly and the keynote speaker is Anthony Downs, from the Brookings Institute. The new *Trends and Challenges* report will be released at this meeting.

9. LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Bay Area Gasoline Pricing – follows Item 5

B. L&GO Report

Chair Jane Bartke, Mayor, City of El Cerrito, presented the following recommendations to the Board for approval:

AB 40 (Massoni)	support	school bond
AB 511 (Migden)	support	bank in-lieu fees
AB 855 (Massoni)	support in concept	K-12 higher education bond
AB 1614 (Lempert)	oppose	internet taxes
AB 1677 (McClintock)	oppose	redevelopment agencies
AB 2038 (Migden)	support	Bay Bridge bike/pedestrian path funding
AB 2456 (Sweeney)	support	property tax reimbursements
AB 2510 (Strom-Martin)	support	disaster relief funding
AB 2718 (Massoni)	support	prospective application of Guardino decision
ACA 10 (Runner)	support	sales tax apportionment
SB 2226 (Schiff)	support	local property tax revenues

After discussion, the Board voted to change the position on AB 1614 (Lempert) from oppose to watch. It was moved by Spees/S/Griffin/C/. No votes were recorded from Harberson, Berto, Kawczynski, and Fleming. Approval of the remaining Committee recommendations was moved by Spees/S/Rippey/C/.

Bartke recommended that a letter be sent to the insurance commissioner of the California Earthquake Authority, urging adoption of the revised rate structure as recommended after judicial review of the previous rates. It was moved by Spees/S/Haggerty/C/.

10. FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

A. FY 1998-99 Budget, Work Program and Annual Dues

Based on a unanimous recommendation from the Finance and Personnel Committee, Eugene Leong, ABAG Executive Director, presented the proposed Budget and Work Program for FY 1998-99. An annual dues increase of 2.4% is included in the budget. A recommendation for approval was requested from the Board before presentation to the voting delegates at General Assembly on April 17, 1998. Approval was moved by Spees/S/Bartke/C/.

The following items were discussed in closed session pursuant to the requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act. All actions taken were announced in open session prior to the adjournment of the meeting.

B. Personnel Matter: Authorization of Meet and Confer with SEIU Local 790

In closed session the Board authorized the Executive Director, or his designee, to begin negotiations for a contract to be effective July 1, 1998.

C. Personnel Matter: Executive Director's Annual Review

In closed session the Executive Board heard recommendations from the Finance and Personnel Committee about the Executive Director's annual performance review and Employment Agreement. The Board approved revisions in the Employment Agreement and salary and benefits.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Eugene Y. Leong, Secretary-Treasurer