

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

Thursday, January 15, 2004

Summary Minutes

Members Present:

Councilmember Maria Alegria, City of Pinole
Councilmember Desley Brooks, City of Oakland
Councilmember Carole Dillon-Knutson, City of Novato
Supervisor Scott Haggerty, County of Alameda
Councilmember Carol Klatt, City of Daly City
Supervisor Barbara Kondyllis, County of Solano
Supervisor Pete McHugh, Santa Clara County
Mayor Julia Miller, City of Sunnyvale
Councilmember Steve Rabinowitsh, City of Santa Rosa
Councilmember Gwen Regalia, City of Walnut Creek
Mayor Shelia Young, City of San Leandro

Also Present:

Patricia Jones – ABAG
Kathleen Cha—ABAG
Henry Gardner—ABAG

1. Introductions: Committee Vice Chair, Councilmember Maria Alegria, opened the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

2. Minutes: November 20, 2003, minutes were approved, after a quorum was established.

3. Establishing Policy Priorities and Strategies for 2004 Legislative Session

The Committee established policy priorities and strategies for 2004 legislative session and outlined key methods for adding/strengthening and responding to these priorities in 2004 legislation. Four L&GO goals were identified **with the following goal given first priority:**

- Monitor closely and take positions on fiscal reform legislation and strategies, and continue support of statewide ballot initiative for 2004 to limit state government ability to confiscate local tax funds.

The other three goals are:

- Take positions on bills and propositions related to local government financing, land use, housing, water, and the environment.
- Specifically track bills and initiatives that contain mandates for local government, and address the lowering of voter threshold, reform of the state budget process, housing element reform, smart growth planning incentives, integrated regional planning, and water planning funding.
- Support efforts to ensure that the Bay Area's needs are represented in legislative planning, commissions, and committees.

To facilitate action for supporting, amending, opposing bills, the Committee will be assigning an action priority level to bills considered:

Level 1 will call for Priority Action.

Level 2 bills will be tracked with letters written indicating committee recommended position.

Level 3 bills will be marked “Information” with updates as needed, if they have general regional information or potential applicability.

The Committee recommended that the Priority Action strategies for Level 1 bills could include briefings from bill author or staff, a committee delegation traveling to Sacramento meeting with the bill author to present amendments and recommendations, as well as having representation at legislative hearings of the bill to indicate support or opposition. Priority action would also include letters to the bill author and Legislative Committee, as well as letters to the editor, with sample letters available for other jurisdictions to use as needed. Strategic coalitions and communications with the League and CSAC on these issues would continue to be pursued and engaged.

The Committee moved that the ABAG President appoint an Ad Hoc Legislative Committee to pursue these legislative priorities between L&GO and Executive Board Meetings.

4. Bills in the 2004 Legislative Session

In this early part of the Legislative Session, the committee examined the following bills. Some were 2003 bills which were potentially being reconsidered or substantively changed during the openings days of the 2004 Legislative Session.

AB 644 (Mullin) Taxation: Low Income Housing—Support

AB 672 (Montanez) Housing: Smart Growth—Downpayment Assistance and Mortgages—Watch Because of new amendments, more clarification is needed about the certification process from local government or agency administering for homes purchased within an infill opportunity zone.

AB 1015 (Laird) Land Use: Water Supply—Continue to Watch

AB 1748 (Committee on Budget) Public Resources: California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Action of 2002—Continue to Watch

SB 219 (Romero) Public Agency: Liability—Immunity—Continue to oppose

SB 526 (Torlakson) Redevelopment Referenda—Watch and want more information on conflicting referenda requirements being changed

5. Final Report on ABAG-MTC Task Force Discussions on Comprehensive Regional Planning:

Gwen Regalia and other Task Force committee members (Supervisor Scott Haggerty, Councilmember Steve Rabinowitsh, Supervisor Pete McHugh, and Mayor Shelia Young) summarized the results of the six meetings and the recommendation to create a Joint Planning Committee.

The Committee recommended support of the ABAG/MTC report and recommendations to the Executive Board.

6. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 18, 2004, 3:30 - 5 p.m., Joseph B. MetroCenter, ABAG Conference Room B