

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

Thursday, January 16, 2003

Summary Minutes

Members Present:

Mayor Maria Alegria, Pinole
Councilmember Carole Dillon-Knutson, Novato
Supervisor Scott Haggerty, Alameda County
Mayor Mary Lou Holt, Yountville, L&GO Chair
Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson, L&GO Vice Chair
Supervisor Peter McHugh, Santa Clara County
Mayor Julia Miller, Sunnyvale
Mayor Gwen Regalia, Walnut Creek
Mayor Shelia Young, San Leandro

Also Present:

Patricia Jones – ABAG
Kathleen Cha—ABAG
Gerry Raycraft—ABAG
Alex Amoroso—ABAG

1. **Introductions:** Committee Chair, Mayor Mary Lou Holt, opened the meeting at 3:35 with a quorum.
2. November 21, 2002, minutes were approved.

3. Determine Priority Issues and Legislative Goals for 2003 Session

- In light of current state budget deficits and the proposed financial bleeding of local government, the Committee identified Fiscal Policy reform as a **primary focus**.
- The committee proposed to review fiscal policy studies, and identify relevant policies and strategies for statewide legislation that should be pursued. This would include fiscal tax reform.
- The importance of working with other stakeholder groups and organizations in partnership and coalitions in this effort was emphasized.
- **The issues of housing and land use, incentives and regulatory change, and environmental issues** (like water and land-use and conservation of resources) were also identified as important and will be watched and tracked by the Committee.

4. In Review of Legislation currently proposed, the Committee recommended the following positions:

SB 1 (Speier & Burton) Financial Institutions—Non Public Personal Information
Support in its current form

SCA 2 (Torlakson) Local Government: Sales Taxes—Transportation and Smart Growth Planning
Watch

Under open agenda, two other legislative issues were added for consideration, relating to restoring Vehicle License Fees and protecting local government Redevelopment Funds.

- **Regarding Legislation on Restoring Vehicle License Fees**, the committee unanimously recommended that VLF should be restored to its previous level and the entire amount completely returned local jurisdictions.
--The Committee opposed any legislation that would propose otherwise.
--There was consensus to support Speaker Wesson's efforts to introduce a measure that would restore VLF which he would be addressing at a press conference on January 21 at the state capitol.
Action: The Committee asked staff to write to our Bay Area delegation detailing this position.
- **Regarding Limited Funding Available for Redevelopment**

Action: After discussion on the local and regional implications, staff was directed to write to the Bay Area delegation that proposals in the state budget to take away redevelopment funds from local jurisdictions must be defeated and removed.

5. Discussion of Legislation needed for Smart Growth Planning Incentives and Regulatory Changes

Alex Amoroso, ABAG Principal Planner, gave a brief report on the regulatory and legislative incentive actions that the Inter-Regional Partnership, the Regional Agencies and Smart Growth Project, and the ABAG Regional Housing Program have identified that could change local land use policies and development patterns and help realize and support a smart growth vision.

Action: After deliberation, the committee gave general support to three of five potential incentives and recommended that support to the Executive Board. There was support for efforts to pursue legislation on

1. incentives relating to urban growth boundaries,
2. tax increment financing, and
3. creation of priority eligibility for cities adopting model “smart growth” policies in the awarding of state competitive grants.

The two incentives that involved lowering voter threshold for Real Estate Transfer tax and a property tax-retail sales tax swap between local and state governments were not recommended.

6. Update on Committee Discussions about Integrated, Comprehensive Regional Planning

ABAG President Gwen Regalia reported to the Committee about meetings and discussions relating to legislation and actions needed to integrate of ABAG and MTC and bring about comprehensive integrated regional planning.

Other Business/Announcements:

- During open agenda, the announcement was made that the elections of a new chair and vice chair will be conducted at the next meeting on March 20.
- Handouts distributed at meeting included:
 - CA Housing Bond Prop 46 Project Funding Breakdown and Eligibility
 - 2003 State Legislative Calendar Year
 - Info on VLF proposals and proposed Press Conferences
 - ABAG and MTC Statements of Principles on Land Use/Transportation Integration

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

Next Meeting: March 20, 2003, 3:30 - 5 p.m., MetroCenter, ABAG Conference Room B