



Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
Government Affairs Committee Meeting
May 14, 2008
Community Hospital Properties
787 Munras Avenue, Suite C, Monterey

No items require
Board action

“Support the Issues and People that Support the Monterey Peninsula Economy”

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order – 3:37 pm.**
Present: Limesand, Buhl, Matarazzo, Hale, Aldrete, Cohn, Boskoff
Staff: McKenzie, Coleman
- II. Consent Calendar**
M/S/P: Minutes of meeting of April 9 and special meeting of April 15, 2008 approved as distributed.
- III. Board Actions on Prior GAC Motions**
Limesand reported the Board agreed with GAC recommendations on Propositions 98 and 99; Chamber featured the Chamber’s statement on the two propositions in the ChamberLink feature in Herald and in MemberLink e-mailed to all members. In addition Chamber issued a Propositions 98 and 99 joint press statement with Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce; Buhl mentioned she has seen that featured in the Your Town section of the Herald. Buhl briefed the committee on recent publicity on ABC television about the regional water supply projects endorsed in concept by GAC at its last meeting.
- IV. Reports from local government and legislative representatives**
Matarazzo (now Sand City City Manager, replacing Kelly Morgan) reported the Sand City desal plant is underway; because it is a small plant, Sand City was able to design the plant to conform to the years-long desal study by Coastal Commission staff and the result was unanimous approval by the Coastal Commission (although approved by only a 4-3 vote by the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District board).

Cohn reported the primary City of Monterey focus right now is budgeting; the 2008-09 fiscal year is looking okay but the outlook for 2009-10 looks problematic at this point because one revenue stream of \$1M per year is ending and other receipts, such as Transient Occupancy Tax, are running behind projections. Cohn also mentioned that although Monterey is doing better than most cities, infrastructures spending needs are not being met as the city would like to (for instance sewer system maintenance and fire station maintenance). Cohn also mentioned the site of the new city offices on Pacific Street had been intended to be used for housing, but city office needs outweighed the desire to reserve the site for housing; several departments are still housed in marginal quarters so service levels are not what the city would like to provide.

Hale distributed TAMC ‘investment plan’ booklets that are now printed and available for distribution; the booklet describes in detail the project list and timetable for TAMC’s November 2008 transportation funding self-help ballot measure. Hale also mentioned that the previous evening City of Salinas endorsed the ballot measure, which puts TAMC ‘over-the-top’ in securing the approvals it needs to put the measure on the ballot; TAMC

is still pursuing approvals from the remaining cities and hopes to get unanimous support as it did for its measure two years ago.

V. Current/carryover items:

Draft Cease and Desist Order against Cal Am

McKenzie briefed the committee on the current state of the SWRCB proposed Cease and Desist Order against Cal Am; the hearing officer has ruled that the issue raised in the CDO will not be split in two as requested by Cal Am and several other parties, but the hearing will be conducted in two phases. The first phase will address whether Cal Am has not complied with WRO 95-10 ordering it to reduce pumping and diligently pursue an alternative water supply; phase two will deal with what the SWRCB should do if Cal Am is still pumping more water from the Carmel River than it is entitled to and what the timing of remedial actions should be.

Limesand and McKenzie are collaborating on a 'Public Policy Statement' for the Chamber to file with SWRCB in the CDO process; public policy statements are due on or before June 18, 2008.

Endorsement of candidates

Limesand introduced the topic of candidate endorsements and reminded the committee that such endorsements or similar action in support of business-supportive candidates is part of the 2008 Goals. He posed the question to the committee of whether we as a GAC or Chamber are there yet. McKenzie asked for GAC members to describe what they think is sufficient reliable information or data in order to be able to make endorsements. The sentiment of the committee is that if an endorsement program is instituted it should be relatively simple and straightforward. Boskoff asked if with what is known about the candidates for Fourth District Supervisor, Ila Mettee-McCutchon and Jane Parker, the committee would consider endorsing McCutchon and indicated that in his opinion that presents a clear choice between a business and Chamber-position supportive candidate (McCutchon) and candidate that has not supported important Chamber positions (support of the last TAMC transportation funding ballot measure two years ago or Measure A last year (Jane Parker). The committee discussed that but could not reach a decision about whether what they know is sufficient to make a decision; it was noted in discussion that even if the committee made a recommendation, the action could only be taken by the Board of Directors and since it doesn't meet until the end of the month, an endorsement, if made, would be too late in the campaign to do much good. McKenzie is to draft a process for endorsements to be considered by GAC and the Board over the next few months and possibly be in place by the time of the November municipal elections.

VI. Standing Issues – deferred.

VII. Next Meeting – the next meeting of the Government Affairs Committee will be held on June 11 at 3:30 pm at the offices of Community Hospital Properties on Munras in Monterey.

VIII. Adjournment – 5:23 pm.