



Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
Government Affairs Committee Meeting
July 9, 2008
Community Hospital Properties
787 Munras Avenue, Suite C, Monterey

**Items V a. and
V c. require
Board action**

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

MINUTES

I. Call to Order – 3:38 pm

Present: Limesand, Buhl, Low, Matarazzo, Wyatt, Pettley, Stone, Rowley, Hale, Mulford, Kingshaven
Staff: Coleman, McKenzie

II. Consent Calendar

M/S/P: Minutes of meeting of June 11, 2008 approved as distributed.

III. Board Actions on Prior GAC Motions

Limesand reported that the revised Environment and Green Business Practices Policy completed by GAC in October 2007 is to be reviewed by the Chamber’s new Sustainability Committee and comments referred to GAC. Wyatt, who also serves on that committee, indicated GAC would receive the comments for its August meeting.

IV. Reports from local government and legislative representatives

Matarazzo deferred his report until discussion on the draft Cease and Desist Order against Cal Am hearings later on the agenda.

Hale reported that the transportation investment plan is completed and a resolution requesting that the TAMC measure be placed on the November ballot will be taken up by the Board of Supervisors on July 22nd. She indicated that if there is not enough community support to adequately fund a successful campaign TAMC could convene a special meeting to rescind its election request. Hale also reported that Big Sur Land Trust and TAMC crafted a plan for use of habitat preservation funds included in the measure and that BSLT is likely to endorse the measure at its Board meeting later in July. Rowley cautioned that without the support of several community groups and because the economy is not good, particularly the economies of ag, tourism and construction, it will be difficult to raise campaign money and that a defeat doesn’t do anyone any good.

V. Carryover items:

a. Limesand gave the committee an overview of the development of the discussion draft of a candidate endorsement plan, which has been part of the GAC’s goals for the last two years, and reminded the committee that many successful Chambers engage in candidate endorsement. He asked if anyone had any questions before reviewing and revising the draft endorsement plan (revised as per discussion at the June 11 meeting and distributed to the committee prior to the meeting).

The committee reviewed the draft plan and made final changes. McKenzie explained to the committee that if the Board of Directors approve the plan, time is getting short for implementation of the plan for the November elections; filing for local offices (most city councils and mayors) begins July 14 and ends no later than August 14). A list of local offices with elections in November was reviewed; 24 local offices could be selected for endorsement. McKenzie will revise the endorsement plan as discussed and approved by the committee and forward it to the Chamber’s executive committee and to the Board of Directors for action later at the July meeting.

GAC recommends the Board of Directors approve the Candidate Endorsement Plan (attached).

b. Limesand and Low briefed the committee on progress on development of the new GAC section of the Chamber's website. Coleman reported that the Chamber has reached an agreement with a travel portal that will result in much more traffic to the Chamber's website and that the Chamber will be working to encourage member use of the revised website. Coleman also reported that the Chamber Board approved conducting a member survey and will include in the survey five questions from each committee; Chamber Board member Bob Kramer will provide question guidelines.

c. After a brief discussion of the draft CDO and related hearings (see below) Limesand led a discussion by the committee of the legislation the committee selected at the June 11 meeting for possible action. Due to time constraints, the committee discussed and made recommendations on five of the seven bills picked for further review. If it is still timely, the committee will take up the remaining two bills at its August meeting.

A list of the GAC recommendations on legislation and a brief summary of the committee consensus on those bills is attached.

VI. Standing Issues

d. Water issues, draft CDO against Cal Am

Matarazzo reported that Sand City Mayor David Pendergrass will testify at the State Water Resources Control Board hearings on its proposed Cease and Desist Order against California American Water Company later in July; his testimony will involve informing the SWRCB of the history of efforts to develop a new water supply and the efforts of the community to comply with the water use restrictions imposed by SWRCB in 1995 (in Water Rights Order 95-10).

McKenzie reported on the participation of the Monterey County Hospitality Association in the CDO hearings. MCHA is a party in the hearings and will present testimony of three witnesses (MCHA President Mark Bastis, Monterey Marriott General Manager - and GAC and MPCC Board member - Rene Boskoff, and Bob McKenzie) as to water use savings accomplishments of the hospitality industry, the virtual impossibility of accomplishment of any significant further savings, and the drastic consequences to the local economy, employment and local tax revenues if the water supply cutbacks proposed the CDO are ordered.

VII. Other Topics

Rowley suggested and moved that the Chamber write a letter to the City of Monterey congratulating it on making its 'green building standards' voluntary. The committee briefly discussed and agreed. Coleman instructed the committee that the letter would need to be reviewed by the new Sustainability Committee. *[Subsequent to the meeting it was learned that the standards adopted are only voluntary for one year and then automatically become mandatory. On action of the GAC Chair, this action is deferred to the August meeting for continued discussion.]*

Coleman and Limesand briefed the committee on the 2008 annual Leadership Luncheon; it will be held at the Monterey Beach Resort Hotel at noon on August 6th. A subcommittee of GAC, the Board and staff will develop a set of questions for the invited leaders to respond to at the luncheon.

VIII. Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next Government Affairs Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 13th at 3:30 pm at the Community Hospital Properties offices in Monterey. Limesand adjourned the meeting at 5:20 pm.

Prepared by Bob McKenzie