



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

Item V may require
Board Action or
Ratification

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

MINUTES

I. Call to Order – 3:38 pm.

Present: Limesand, Boskoff, Rowley, Morgan, Gustafson, Low, Mulford, Hale, Wyatt
Staff: Coleman, McKenzie

II. Consent Calendar

M/S/P: Approval of minutes of meeting of December 12, 2007.

III. Board Actions on Prior GAC Motions

No actions to report. The revised policy on Environment and Green Business Practices will be presented at the January Board meeting.

IV. Reports from local government and legislative representatives.

Morgan indicated he had no report but wishes TAMC good luck as it makes its presentations to cities soliciting support for a November 2008 transportation self-help funding measure.

Hale reported TAMC will be presenting a draft regional traffic impact fee to the county's cities soon and will be soliciting support for its transportation funding measure in parallel with the impact fee proposal. TAMC is planning a series of public workshops on these transportation funding measures. Hale also reported TAMC recently received \$9 million earmarked in 1992 for Highway 101 improvements and thanked the Chamber for its support for securing these funds.

V. Special action items:

Review and recommendations on state propositions on the February 5th ballot

McKenzie gave a brief overview of the seven propositions on the February 5 Presidential Primary ballot.

Proposition 91 was in the process of qualifying for a ballot when Proposition 1A was agreed to and placed on the November 2007 ballot. The sponsors of Prop. 91 ask for a No vote because the Proposition 42 loopholes they sought to fix (diversion of sales taxes on motor vehicle fuels away from transportation funding) was fixed with Proposition 1A. McKenzie mentioned that Proposition 91 contains a prohibition on temporary funds transfers with later repayment that was not in Proposition 1A. The committee concluded that since the Proposition 42 flaws were fixed, no need exists to approve this proposition. **GAC unanimous recommendation is for Chamber to oppose Proposition 91.**

Proposition 92 is a measure to lower Community College per-unit fees and mandate the level of state funding for Community Colleges much like the Proposition 98 mandate for school funding. Gustafson presented arguments for supporting this proposition. After discussion, GAC determined that a 'fixed percentage of state revenues' method of Community College funding is not the best way to assure adequate funding so Community Colleges can perform their important missions. **GAC recommendation is for Chamber to oppose Proposition 92** (Gustafson voted No).

Proposition 93 is a measure to alter existing California term limits law. Currently individuals may serve a maximum of six years in the Assembly and eight years in the State Senate, for a total of fourteen years in the legislature. This proposition would reduce the maximum time from fourteen years to twelve but allow individuals to serve all twelve years in the same house of the legislature. Hale indicated that with John Laird in the Assembly it has been somewhat easier for

the Transportation Agency for Monterey County to be heard on funding requests for transportation funds. After discussion the committee concluded there is no clear benefit to the California business community from altering existing term limits law. **GAC recommendation is for Chamber to oppose Proposition 93** (Hale abstained from this vote).

Propositions 94, 95, 96 and 97 are referenda on Indian Gaming Compact amendments, passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor, that allow four Southern California Tribes with existing casinos to add up to 17,000 new slot machines in return for increased revenues to the state. Horse racing tracks and Tribes that would not agree to the amendments oppose these measures. After discussion the committee agreed these propositions do not present a clear business issue. **GAC unanimous recommendation is Chamber take no position on Propositions 94, 95, 96 and 97.**

VI. Current/carryover items:

The committee briefly discussed a draft of 2008 Government Affairs Committee Goals prepared by Buhl. McKenzie will synthesize the draft and the discussion points for review and adoption at the February meeting.

New committee member Kristina Wyatt shared information with the committee on the use and proposed ban on use of polystyrene products; she indicated the City of Monterey may review a draft ordinance as soon as March. Wyatt will make a more formal presentation to the committee at its February meeting and agreed to provide the committee with the draft ordinance.

The committee discussed a possibility proposed by Monterey County Election Office for forming an election day volunteer work team in return for a small stipend to be paid to the Chamber. Limesand agreed to follow up on this with Assistant Registrar of Voters Claudio Valenzuela.

VII. Standing Issues

Health Care Reform

Limesand briefed the committee on the position of the California Hospital Association on the reform legislation agreed to by the Governor and the Assembly (it supports so long as a cap on charges to hospitals remains low). The language of the agreed-to legislation is to be placed in an initiative for the November 2008 ballot. The State Senate is scheduled to hear the bill (AB1X 1) some time in January but Senate President Pro Tem Perata insists the Senate will not act on the bill until the Legislative Analyst's Office prepares a report on the bill and its impacts on the budget deficit.

VIII. Next Meeting – February 13, 2008 at 3:30 pm at Community Hospital Properties offices on Munras in Monterey.

IX. Adjournment – 5:20 pm.

Prepared by Bob McKenzie