

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Santa Barbara, CA 93101
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Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 1/28/03
Department CAO
Name:
Department No.: 012
Agenda Date: 2/4/03
Placement: Departmental
Estimate Time: 20 Minutes
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Michael F. Brown, County Administrator
STAFF CONTACT: Jim Laponis, Deputy County Administrator
Lori Norton, Analyst X 3421
SUBJECT: Legislative Program Committee Recommendation

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors consider the following recommendations forwarded by the Legislative Program Committee:

1. Adopt the County's Federal Legislative priorities for the 108th Congressional Session:

Comprehensive Advocacy Issues

- ❖ CDBG Entitlement Status – Continued Advocacy
- ❖ TEA-21 Transportation Project Funding – Continued Advocacy
- ❖ Emergency Operations Center Funding – Continued Advocacy
- ❖ Gaviota Coast Funding for conservation easements and/or acquisition – New Advocacy - may be linked to Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) which was previously an advocacy issue
- ❖ Lake Cachuma Surcharge impacts – New Advocacy

Monitor and Reporting Issues

- ❖ Beach / Shore Erosion Programs – Continued Monitoring & Reporting
- ❖ Emerging Opportunities – New Monitoring & Reporting with direction to Waterman and Associates to specifically seek federal housing funding opportunities
- ❖ Leave the 3rd monitoring and reporting issue unspecified pending a discussion with Waterman and Associates regarding Indian Lands Fee-to-Trust issues

A discussion of each of the Federal priorities is included in Attachment 1.

2. Continue to seek an amendment to Public Resources Code Section (PRC) 6817(b), to allow the County to receive a 20% share of state revenue for the extraction of oil, gas, and hydrocarbons, from tideland leases within the County. Funding would be used to offset the impacts to the County from existing leases. Direct staff to work with Governmental Advocates to find an author to sponsor the amendment or to seek to insert the amendment into an existing bill. (Attachment 2)

3. Approve in concept a proposal to seek an amendment to State Law governing the definition of financial assistance (housing subsidy) to households of moderate income to include households with incomes up to 200% of the area median for certain tight housing market areas. Direct County Counsel, Housing and Community Development Director and Planning and Development Director to further develop the concept and once finalized to work with legislative program staff to seek legislation to enact the amendment. (Attachment 3)
4. Support ABX1 4, Vehicle License Fees (Wesson). ABX1 4 clarifies the existing trigger provision in law that requires; in the event there are insufficient moneys in the General Fund for the controller to fully reimburse local governments for losses resulting from the vehicle license fee offset, that the offset amount will be reduced in proportion to the shortfall funding to reimburse local government for those losses. Direct staff to support that the trigger provision be mandatory, not a discretionary action. (Attachment 4) Note: On 1/28/03, ABX1 4 was amended to exempt vehicles valued at less than \$5,000 from a reduction in the offset

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendations are primarily aligned with actions required by law or by routine business necessity. They are also aligned with goal number 1, an efficient government able to anticipate and respond effectively to the needs of the community.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

On January 28, the Legislative Program Committee ("Committee") considered, and recommended the Board adopt the above recommended actions. The 2003 Committee membership is as follows: Second District Supervisor Susan Rose, Third District Supervisor Gail Marshall, County Administrator Michael Brown, Auditor-Controller Bob Geis, and County Counsel Shane Stark. The recommendations supported unanimously by the Committee.

Other Issues Discussed:

State Budget

Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates provided a report on the status of the State budget and efforts by the legislature and governor to reach agreement on tax increases, mid-year reductions, etc. Cliff relayed that the lack of agreement on the VLF is hindering productive discussions of other budget issues. Shane Stark expressed concerns regarding the proposed realignment in the Governor's budget and the potential impact on the County. Cliff indicated that democrats continue to advocate for return of the VLF to previous levels while republicans continue to oppose any tax increases. Staff will provide an update on the current status of budget negotiations at your meeting of February 4th.

Legislative Program Committee Meetings

The Committee adopted a schedule of meetings for 2003 (Attachment 5). The Committee will continue to meet at 2:30, on the third Monday of each month. If the 3rd Monday is a holiday, the meeting will be scheduled for the subsequent Tuesday, at 12:00.

Meetings with Elected Representatives

As a result of redistricting, the County has a number of new representatives. The County's State representatives are Senators Tom McClintock and Bruce McPherson, and Assemblymembers Abel Maldonado and Hannah-Beth Jackson. The County's Federal representatives are Senators Dianne

Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, Congresswoman Lois Capps, and Congressman Elton Gallegly. The Committee briefly discussed options for meeting with the County's elected representatives. Options discussed include a Board Workshop, Community Forums, sending a County delegation(s) to Sacramento and/or Washington D.C. to meet with elected representatives, etc. The Committee directed staff to develop recommendations and return to the Committee at an upcoming meeting.

Other Legislation of Interest to the County

Staff distributed a list of various bills, introduced to date, which may be of interest to the County. Staff will continue to review legislation as it is introduced, will add to the list of bills to be monitored, and if/when appropriate will bring individual bills to the Committee for their consideration. A copy of the bills staff is currently monitoring is attached (Attachment 6).

Mandates and Service Levels:

The Legislative Program is not mandated and its service levels are discretionary.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

If applicable, fiscal and facilities impacts are discussed in relationship to individual recommendations.

C: Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates
Ron Waterman, Waterman and Associates
Department Directors