

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 02/20/02
Department Name: County Administrator
Department No.: 012
Agenda Date: 02/26/02
Placement: Departmental
Estimate Time: 15 minutes
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Michael F. Brown
County Administrator

STAFF CONTACT: Jim Laponis / Lori Norton
568-3400 / 568-3421

SUBJECT: Legislative Program Committee Recommendations

Recommendations:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Support the following legislation to conform State Income and Corporation Tax Laws to provisions of the Federal Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001: AB 1122 (Corbett), AB 1743 (Campbell), AB 1744 (Corbett), SB 657 (Scott), and SB 1256 (Brulte). Note: Committee voted unanimously to support these bills. (Attachment 1)
- B. Watch AB 680 (Steinberg) Sacramento Regional Smart Growth Act of 2002. AB 680 reallocates the Bradley-Burns sales tax revenue growth, above the 2002 base amount, within the Sacramento region on the following basis: one third to the City or County where the tax is generated (situs), one-third on a per capita basis (population), and one-third based on "housing eligibility". Housing eligibility is defined within the bill with criteria that must be met for a City or County to receive this one-third share. Note: Committee voted unanimously to "carefully" watch this bill. (Attachment 2)

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendations are primarily aligned with actions required by law or by routine business necessity.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

The Legislative Program Committee ("Committee") is comprised of the following members: First District Supervisor Naomi Schwartz, Second District Supervisor Susan Rose, County Administrator Michael Brown, Auditor-Controller Robert Geis, and County Counsel Stephen Shane Stark.

On February 19, 2002, the Committee considered, and recommended the Board adopt the actions as articulated above.

Recommendation "A" regards the bills in the State Legislature which would conform California's deferred compensation tax laws with those of the Federal Government. Currently, federal laws allow for a greater amount of income to be placed into tax deferred compensation pay than for California law.

Recommendation "B" would ensure that our Legislature Advocate closely monitor and report on Sacramento's sales tax reallocation proposal to reallocate its sales tax from a situs based allocation to an allocation based on 1/3 situs, 1/3 population and 1/3 "housing eligibility" which has numerous "smart growth" elements.

In addition, the Committee received various informational reports as summarized below:

State Update: Cliff Berg, of Governmental Advocates, reported that the State Budget and March 5 elections continue to be the focus of the State legislature. As a result, fewer bills have been introduced. Mr. Berg also reported that State revenue collections are not on target to meet the Governor's revenue projections for the remainder of this fiscal year and next fiscal year. Further, the Governor has encountered challenges to some of his original proposals and is considering other strategies to bridge the State Budget gap. The proposal to delay contributions to State employee and Teachers retirement funds appears to be off the table. The Governor is now considering an alternative proposal, which would involve refinancing existing State debt to reduce interest costs. Cliff Berg and staff will continue to monitor the Budget debate and will keep the Board informed of potential impacts as they arise.

Current Year State Budget Reductions: Staff reported on the passage of SBX3 1 (Peace). An urgency statute to amend the Budget Act of 2001 (current year) by revising various items of appropriation and authorizing the Director of Finance to revert additional amounts from specified funds to the General Fund. SBX3 1 included reverting approximately 30 million in local district projects. A number of projects or programs within Santa Barbara county were unfunded by SBX3 1. These include: \$395,000 for Old Town Goleta picnic area and playground equipment improvements, \$50,000 for Guadalupe Homeless Project funding, \$50,000 for Guadalupe playground equipment, \$500,000 for Goleta Youth Baseball Fields, and \$195 for the Santa Barbara Junior League Clinic of Wheels.

Proposed Public Safety Initiative and Local Revenue Protection Initiative: Staff reported that the fates of the proposed Public Safety Initiative (Anti-Terrorist and Public Protection Act of 2002), which would have provided a ¼ cent sales tax increase, with funding to be used for anti-terrorist and public protection, and the CSAC Local Revenue Protection Initiative, are uncertain. As reported at the last meeting, the California Medical Association appears to be sponsoring an initiative to provide additional funding for emergency medical services. A new initiative, the Maddy Emergency and Trauma Services Act, has been filed with the Attorney General. The Maddy Emergency and Trauma Services Act appears to be the California Medical Association's attempt to gain voter approval to create an ongoing source of funding to improve the training and equipment of firefighters and paramedics; to expand access to trauma and emergency medical care and promote the continued operation of trauma centers. The measure would create a fund to provide reimbursement to emergency room physicians and on-call physician specialists for uncompensated emergency medical services and allocate funds to hospital to help offset their uncompensated costs of operating emergency departments. Staff will continue to monitor the progress of these and other initiatives which may impact the County.

County Sponsored Legislation: Staff distributed a copy of language drafted by the Legislative Counsel's Office (Attachment #3), which if incorporated into existing law, would allow the County of Santa Barbara to provide for death and survivor's allowances to be payable to a member's surviving domestic partner. Cliff Berg reported that he has/is approaching a number of potential authors for the bill. He also indicated that in this election year it may be very difficult to find an author.

Mr. Berg also reported that he continues to work with Assemblymember Maldonado on AB 1573, the County's Tidelands Revenue bill. Mr. Berg reminded the Committee that Senator John Burton opposed the bill last year in committee. Mr. Berg is attempting to facilitate dialog between Assemblymember Maldonado and Senator Burton to work through the issues related to AB 1573.

SB 1279 (Murray and Romero) Bond Act: Antiterrorism Safety. Bruce Carter, County OES Manager, informed the Committee of the introduction of SB 1279, which would authorize, for the purpose of financing a program for antiterrorism safety, the issuance of bonds in an unspecified amount pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law. The bill would require the Secretary of State to submit the bond act to the voters at a statewide general election. Mr. Carter indicated that if passed, the bond would provide necessary funding for the County to construct and Emergency Operations Center. Staff will continue to monitor the bill. (Attachment 4)

Mandates and Service Levels:

The Legislative Program is not mandated and its service levels are discretionary. The recommendations do not regard any mandates.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Where known, the fiscal and facility impacts are indicated in the informational material that is part of each recommended item.

c: Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates
Clare Macdonald, County Counsel
Department Directors