

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 6/18/02
Department Name: County Administrator
Department No.: 012
Agenda Date: 6/25/02
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, Deputy County Administrator
Lori Norton, Analyst X3421

SUBJECT: Legislative Program Committee Recommendations

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive a brief update on the status of the State Budget, and a copy of a letter to Governor Gray Davis, supporting the Budget Conference Committee's action to restore Williamson Act subvention funding. (Attachment 1) (Unanimous)
2. Oppose AB 2701 (Wyman, R-Phelan) which would exempt from sales and use tax the retail sale of tangible personal property on Indian reservations. (Attachment 2) (Unanimous)
3. Oppose SB 1975 (Johnson, R-Irvine), unless amended to require the statewide direct primary election be held in June. In its current form, SB 1975 retains the existing presidential primary election date of the first Tuesday in March, but moves the date of the statewide direct primary election from March to August. (Attachment 3) (Unanimous)
4. Oppose SB 362 (Soto, D-Pomona). SB 362 would prohibit the adoption of any retirement benefits for some, but not all, general members or safety members or for any subgroup. Although designed to insure equity in retirement benefits, SB 362 would limit the Board's ability to adopt benefit as appropriate. Further, if in negotiations, one group is unwilling to accept a benefit level, SB 362 would prohibit the Board from adopting the benefit for other groups that may want to accept the benefit. (Attachment 4) (Unanimous)
5. Support AB 2004, if amended to clarify that the employee is responsible for the full cost (the intent is to minimize the cost to the employer to the extent the law allows) of purchasing additional retirement service credit. (Correa, D-Santa Ana). AB 2004 would authorize a county board of supervisors, in counties operating retirement systems under the County Employees' Retirement Law of 1937 ('37 Act), to allow active members of the retirement system to purchase up to five years of additional service retirement credit. (Attachment 5) (Unanimous)

6. Oppose SB 1521 (Kuehl, D-Santa Monica). SB 1521 would require the Director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) in conjunction with a Planning Advisory and Assistance Council, and the Secretaries of Resources and Business, Transportation and Housing to develop model planning practices and policies. This bill would then grant these same entities the authority to extend judgment over cities and counties regarding whether a city's or county's practices and policies are "substantially comparable." Should it be determined that a city or county has failed to adopt an ordinance that is "substantially comparable" the local jurisdiction would not receive a priority for any competitive grants awarded by a state agency, department, board or commission, which would include state General Funds, federal funds or state bond monies approved after January 1, 2004. (Attachment 6) (Unanimous)
7. Support AB 363 if amended to include language proposed by the Public Attorney's Associations (Steinberg, D-Sacramento). AB 363 makes legislative findings and declarations regarding the competing interests of public agency attorneys and seeks to clarify how, and under what circumstances, a public sector attorney may disclose a client confidence when it is necessary to do so to protect the public interest. (Attachment 7) (Unanimous)
8. Support the annual renewal of the federal advocacy contract with Waterman and Associates, for the period of July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003, for services as described in the attached proposal. The total amount of the annual contract shall not exceed \$116,000. The total contract includes \$9,000 per month for comprehensive advocacy on no more than five specific issues / projects plus monitoring and reporting on an additional three issues; \$3,000 for reimbursable expenditures; and \$5,000 for additional unanticipated issues/services that may be authorized if necessary. This would in effect be a continuation of the existing costs and level of services. (Attachment 8) (Unanimous)
9. Support, in concept, the introduction of federal legislation, the California Affordable Quantity and Quality Water Act (CAL-AQQWA), by Senator Barbara Boxer, and authorize staff to convey conceptual support to the Senator. As proposed CAL-AQQWA would provide federal support for projects that recycle, reuse, and improve California's water supply. As proposed, the legislation would include support for an expedited feasibility study for the Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District Twitchell Reservoir Sediment Removal. The Twitchell Reservoir would also be eligible for a competitive grant and loan program to be supported by funding included in the bill. (Attachment 9) (Unanimous)
10. Support H.R. 4857 (Matsui) to amend part D of title IV of the Social Security Act to modify the calculation of the child support automation penalty and provide for the reinvestment of any such penalties. (Attachment 10) (Unanimous)

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

[{Double-click here}](#) The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 1. An Efficient Government Able to Respond Effectively to the Needs of the Community.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

State Budget Update

Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates provided an update on the status of the State Budget process. Mr. Berg reported that the Budget Conference Committee continues to meet, and in actions to date, has

considered and taken action on many of the Governor's proposals contained within the May Revise. Of interest to the County, the Budget Conference Committee voted to:

- Reject Governor's proposal to eliminate funding for Williamson Act Subventions
- Support deferred funding of select reimbursable state mandates (SB90 claims)
- Support a 50 percent cost shift from the State to the County of Federal Child Support Penalties
- Restore and augment the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection State Responsibility Area Reimbursement
- Restore funding for the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Program
- Supported reduction in Local Law Enforcement Technology Grants
- Rejected various proposed reductions in the area of Health and Human Services

Mr. Berg advised the Board that the Conference Committee has considered and rejected many of the Governor's proposed expenditure reductions. However, it has yet to seriously engage in the more difficult discussion of where the additional revenue, necessary to support the increased level of expenditures, will be derived. The revenue discussions have the potential to override all of the compromises that have been reached to date through the work of the Assembly, Senate, and Budget Conference Committees. Further Cliff reported that although it appears the Senate has the necessary 2/3's vote to approve the Conference Report, the Assembly may be more problematic, particularly if the Conference Report includes tax reduction rollbacks. Staff will provide an update on State Budget actions to date at the Board's June 25th meeting.

Legislative Program Committee Streamlining

The Legislative Program Committee discussed recommendations from the County Administrator, to streamline the process and timeliness in which legislative issues are brought before the Board of Supervisors. The Committee agreed to discuss the issue further at an upcoming meeting.

Mandates and Service Levels:

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

C: Department Directors and Deputy Directors (via e-mail)
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates
Ron Waterman, Waterman and Associates