



County of Santa Barbara
Meeting of the Legislative Program Committee
MINUTES FROM MEETING

AGENDA

Date: December 11, 2009

Time: 10-11:30 AM

Place: **Board of Supervisors Conference Room, Fourth Floor**
105 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara

Committee Members: Salud Carbajal, First District Supervisor
Janet Wolf, Second District Supervisor
Michael Brown, County Executive Officer
Robert Geis, Auditor-Controller
Dennis A. Marshall, County Counsel

All members present

Public Comment: **No members of the public wished to speak**

Action Items:

1. Approve minutes from the November 2, 2009 meeting (Attachment 1: Draft 11/2/09 minutes).

Motion by Sup. Carbajal to approve minutes. 2nd by Mr. Marshall. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Review the proposed 2010 legislative platform and provide direction to staff as necessary (Attachment 2: Draft 2010 Legislative Platform Booklet)

Terri Nisich gave overview of platform. Sup. Carbajal asked to please list Ms. Nisich on each department fact sheet along with the dept head.

Motion by Sup. Wolf to approve 2010 Legislative Platform. 2nd by Sup. Carbajal. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Discuss other potential legislative items and provide direction to staff as necessary.

- **Child Support Services Collections for Probation (Attachment 3)**
- **Emergency Medical and Trauma Care Services (Attachment 4)**
- **Emission Reduction Offset Credits/ Municipal Energy Financing District**
- **Speed Limit**

CSS Collections for Probation:

Ms. Nisich gave an overview of the brief and stated the strategy was to look at mechanism for temporary opportunities to access funding.

Carrie Topliffe, Director of Child Support Services gave an overview of the issue and answered questions:

SB Co. has been the only county in the state for 10 yrs to collect on behalf of Probation Dept. She stated that when a child is in custody of the Probation Dept, neither parent is custodial parent. CSS is set up to equalize parents and treats both parents as non-custodial, and collects payments on behalf of Probation dept. This is a mandated activity that CSS should be doing. State codes are silent on who should pay. The federal government will not pay because parents of children going into custody do not assign rights over to Probation Dept. Requested leg action is that parents of children going into probation would assign their rights of child care to Probation. This is not as well received in child support world-difficult caseload, requires special handling. However, CSS has returned a significant amount of revenue to the Probation Dept. There are statutory limits on how much per day they can charge. It is an administrative challenge. Have to look at each child each day. Funding for this is received from federal and state. No discretionary funds. With new rule in the last few months, the department may no longer may do it because they can't pay for it (claim it) anymore.

Motion by Sup. Carbajal to include in Leg platform. 2nd by Sup. Wolf. Motion passed 5-0.

EMS Fund:

Michelle Mickiewicz, Interim Director of Public Health, gave an overview of the issue and answered questions:

SB Co. has been successful for maintaining a level of funding to partially compensate health care physicians and hospitals for otherwise uncompensated emergency medical and trauma care services through AB 1900. Brings in \$1.1 million to support trauma care. Funding is given to state and is matched by federal dollars and then contracted for emergency room care.

Mr. Marshall commented that LA County did an emergency room sales tax and got back 2-3 times what they were spending.

Motion by Sup. Wolf to include in platform, but polish the action and strategy portion, which could include AB 1383. 2nd by Sup. Carbajal. Motion passed 5-0.

Committee will continue to work on AB1383 and define strategy with how it may relate. Bring to Board for support.

Emission reduction:

Dave Matson, Interim Director of Housing and Community Development gave an overview of the issue and answered questions:

Principle 5 and 10 of the climate action strategy get at the private/public sector partnerships. The state is moving forward with rulemaking part of AB 1382 and they released the preliminary plan for state's cap and trade program. Purchase of offset credits must be used to pay for projects that reduce GSG emissions. Purpose is to participate in Western Climate Initiative. Allowing local agencies to participate in this process has been discussed. Draft plan by state doesn't say where the polluters would invest offset credits proceeds. The leg discussion/policy discussion is how can these offset credits that polluters purchase be required to be used locally? Reinvest in the communities in which they are located. AB 811 is on the cusp of being a significant policy decision.

Sup. Wolf commented that this is a complicated issue that needs to be brought to the Board. The implication is that it de-incentivizes larger polluters if they know their credits go to municipal government.

Mr. Matson stated that the state's draft plan is very important. Requires industry to meet offset targets or pay into the cap and trade pool. Polluters need to invest in community related projects in order to meet offset targets.

Sup. Wolf asked whether some of the money in the pool goes to the County.

Mr. Matson stated that municipal energy finance program projects are a good potential source of revenue. The County needs to remain engaged in policy debate with the state and federal governments. Also look at ways to support other jurisdictions or sponsor legislation to bring in energy finance programs to invest proceeds at local level which would demonstrate their compliance with standards.

Tom Walters, Tom Walters and Associates, Inc, stated that on the federal level, there are discussions taking place now. The County should get on board now for discussion that will take place in the spring.

Motion by Sup. Wolf to develop a broad policy statement to be included in the guiding principle to be engaged with these talks on state and federal level. Specifically, Monica and Tom should come back to leg committee with update on this. 2nd by Sup. Carbajal. Motion passed 5-0

Public Comment: Counties need to be at the table and work together to make it as inoffensive as possible so as to not drive away business from CA. Please provide meeting links to public so they can be engaged

Speed limits:

Mr. Marshall spoke on the California Speed Trap Law Vehicle Code Section 40802.

Sup. Wolf commented that this would be a good issue to have as part of public dialogue and to bring back to Board.

Motion by Sup. Carbajal to continue and bring to Board for discussion on Jan 5th for possible inclusion in the Legislative Platform on Jan 12. 2nd by Wolf. Motion passed 5-0

4. Review the 2009 adopted legislative principles, the proposed safety net protection principle, and the proposed community sustainability principle and provide direction to staff as necessary (*Attachment 5(a) 2009 Adopted Legislative Principles; 5(b) Draft Legislative Principle-Safety Net Protection; 5(c) Draft Legislative Principle-Community Sustainability*).

Sup. Carbajal would like to add IHSS (kids, seniors) to Inter-Agency Collaboration legislative principle.

Motion to approve by Sup. Carbajal. 2nd by Sup. Wolf. Motion passed 5-0.

Ms. Miller gave AB 359 (Nava) update.

Motion to adjourn by Sup. Carbajal. 2nd by Mr. Marshall. Motion passed 5-0.

Note: Annual Federal and State updates on issues of interest to the County will be presented during the Board meeting on January 12, 2010

“Writings that are a public record under Government Code § 54957.5(a) and that relate to an agenda item for open session of a regular meeting of the County Legislative Program Committee and that are distributed to a majority of the members of the County Legislative Program Committee less than 72 hours prior to that meeting shall be available for public inspection at Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board at 105 E. Anapamu Street, 4th Floor in Santa Barbara, and also on the County’s website at <http://www.countyofsbq.org/ceo/legis.aspx?id=308>”