



MEETING SUMMARY

NORTH COUNTY MEASURE A POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 12, 2008
9:00 a.m.

Central Coast Water Authority
255 Industrial Way
Buellton, CA

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Joe Centeno, Supervisor, Fifth District; Russ Hicks, Councilmember, City of Buellton and committee chairperson; Mayor Dick DeWees, City of Lompoc; Ed Skytt, Councilmember, City of Solvang; Aileen Loe, Caltrans, District 5 (ex-officio member)

Members Absent: Brooks Firestone, Supervisor, Third District; Joni Gray, Supervisor, Fourth District; Mayor Larry Lavagnino, City of Santa Maria; Lupe Alvarez, Mayor, City of Guadalupe;

Advisory committee members proceeded with self-introductions. Policy Development Committee members in attendance included: Vibiana Saavedra, PUEBLO; Deborah Brasket, Santa Barbara County Action Network; Linda Jackson, Solvang Chamber of Commerce; Norene Nims, 15th District Parent Teachers Association of Santa Barbara County; Don Oaks, Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association.

SBCAG Staff Members Present: Jim Kemp, Executive Director; Stephen VanDenburgh, Deputy Director, Gregg Hart, Public Information Officer; Fred Luna, Transportation Engineer; Sarkes Khachek, Transportation Planner

2. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND MEETING OBJECTIVES

Jim Kemp reviewed the meeting agenda and meeting objectives. He noted that the county elections office has officially assigned Measure A as the ballot designation for the renewal measure that will be on the November ballot.

3. FEBRUARY 13, 2008 MEETING REVIEW

There were no comments on the February 13 committee meeting summary.

4. INVESTMENT PLAN REVISED DRAFT (3-12-08)

Steve VanDenburgh reviewed revisions made to the Draft Investment Plan since the February 12th meeting based on comments made by North and South committee members.

The committee discussed recommended changes to the Investment Plan endorsed by the South Coast Measure A Policy Development Committee at their March 5th meeting. Committee members expressed concern with including language clarifying that projects, where appropriate,

will incorporate mitigation to prevent roadway runoff from flowing into creeks, the ocean and onto beaches. Jim Kemp noted that jurisdictions and SBCAG are currently required to implement these measures by existing law and permit conditions—the language is not intended to impose additional requirements. Jim told the committee that the language would be revised to be consistent with current law and emphasize “reduce” runoff rather than prevent runoff.

Supervisor Centeno recommended that due to a lack of quorum, that the committee meet again to take action on the recommended changes and adopt the Measure A Investment Plan.

Chair Hicks suggested that the North County Subregional Planning Committee meet prior to the March 20th SBCAG Board meeting in Santa Maria to review the recommended changes to the Investment Plan and approve the plan.

Steve VanDenburgh then reviewed responses to comments made at the February 13 North County committee meeting regarding the North and South Measure D funding split. Steve noted that SBCAG staff did provide information requested at the October 3rd meeting regarding projected population during the life of the Measure A Renewal as part of the meeting materials for the October 17th meeting. He also noted that the SBCAG Board adopted a framework to split the funds evenly between north and south county subregions after allocating \$140 for the South Coast Highway 101 widening “off the top.” The north and south committees developed their subregion plans based on the 50/50 allocation and the board approved the draft plan in November.

Counsel Kevin Ready noted that a provision was in place in the ordinance that allowed the SBCAG Board to amend the distribution of funding with a 2/3 vote at any time. The Board could revisit the redistribution of the revenues and revisit it at any time if they find that the 50/50 split is inequitable.

Committee members expressed concern that the alternative transportation improvements in the local program were not given proper recognition in the investment plan. Staff noted the concern and recommended adding narrative to note the potential alternative transportation improvements on the first page of the investment plan in the ‘Required Investments’ summary table.

Deborah Braskett requested that within Appendix B2 of the Investment Plan, under item 1, that the sentence be rewritten to not include maintenance of Class II bike lanes as an eligible improvement. The sentence would be rewritten as: ‘Maintenance, repair, construction and improvement of bicycle and pedestrian facilities excluding maintenance of Class II bike lanes.’ Staff noted that this change is consistent with the intent previously expressed by the committee. There was consensus by the committee to make the change.

The committee recessed for a short break at this time.

5. ORDINANCE REVISED DRAFT (3-12-2008)

Following the break, Steve VanDenburgh reviewed changes to the draft ordinance since the February 12th meeting based on comments received.

Larry Bean, city of Lompoc, recommended that the index for inflation for Maintenance of Effort should not be based on the Caltrans Construction Cost Index, but rather should be based on the changes in revenues available to local agencies. He suggested indexing it to growth of

Measure A revenues as a proxy for the growth of non-Measure A revenues that would be available to local agencies.

The committee then discussed the formation of a Citizens Oversight Committee for Measure A. The committee members expressed concern with the amount of work for staff and the cost related to administering the committee. Staff noted that additional funding would not be included in the Investment Plan for administering the committee. Some members expressed concern that the committee must have the independent authority to conduct oversight and evaluate the use of Measure A funds. Staff suggested that this might be accomplished by giving the committee a stronger role in the development of the annual independent fiscal audit that is required.

Mayor DeWees noted that he would like to see the removal of 'investigate all aspects' from the Committees capacity as included in Section 22A. There was consensus by the committee to make the change.

Steve VanDenburgh told the committee that the ordinance is still a work in progress and that the SBCAG board would receive a draft of the ordinance in April and would act on the ordinance in June.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment provided.

7. NEXT STEPS FOR SBCAG STAFF, COMMITTEE AND BOARD

Jim Kemp briefly mentioned public information opportunities for Measure A that would be low-cost and developed by SBCAG staff. These opportunities included a website, informational video, presentations to community groups and mailers to notify members of the public of any meetings relating to Measure A.

Kevin Ready noted that County Counsel will be distributing an instructional memo on what kind of role Board members and agency staff is allowed to have during the Measure A public information effort.

8. ADJOURN NORTH COUNTY MEASURE A POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair Hicks adjourned the North County Measure A Policy Development Committee and noted that the North County Subregional Planning Committee will be reconvening its meeting on March 20 at 8:00 a.m. just prior to the SBCAG Board meeting in Santa Maria. The committee will meet to review changes made to the Investment Plan and recommend approval of the plan to the SBCAG Board. The SBCAG Board meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m.