



JOINT POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of May 15, 2009 Held at 10:00 AM at the MetroCenter Auditorium, Oakland

Attendance:

<u>ABAG</u>	<u>BAAQMD</u>	<u>BCDC</u>	<u>MTC</u>
Jane Brunner	Chris Daly	Geoffrey Gibbs	Tom Bates
Dave Cortese	Yoriko Kishimoto	Richard Gordon	Bill Dodd (Chair)
Mark Green	Mark Ross	Charles McGlashan	Jim Spering
Scott Haggerty	Pamela Torliatt	Anne Halstead	Ken Yeager
Rose Jacobs Gibson	Gayle B. Uilkema	Sean Randolph	

BTH: Jim Bourgart

1. Call to Order

Chair Dodd called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of the Joint Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of January 16th, 2009

The minutes of the January JPC meeting were approved.

3. Approval of the Joint Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of March 20th, 2009

The minutes of the March JPC meeting were approved.

4. Draft Policies for the Bay Area's Implementation of SB 375

The JPC's Regional Planning Program Director briefly addressed the proposed amendments to the draft policies and the recommendation that they be brought back to the JPC in September after continuing discussion with stakeholders.

The Executives Directors and Executive Officer of the JPC member agencies addressed the collaboration of their agencies in drafting the policies and in implementing SB 375. The Executives emphasized the need for broad-based consensus across the region, the substantial progress we have already made toward SB 375 objectives, the difficult political and policy challenges ahead as we move from an emphasis on infrastructure investment to an aggressive use of pricing and land use, the need for realistically tempering expectations, and the essential role the JPC will need to play in managing the interactions among policy levers residing in

each of the agencies and in assisting the positive interplay of regional and local mandates.

Public comments addressed the need for regional leadership and for the authority to use the policy tools which our analysis suggests will make a difference, the requirement to move well beyond “business as usual,” the requirement for a more integrated transit system, the need to address land conservation as well as development, the need to build cooperative relationships and policy consensus, and the need for the JPC to play a more active part than it has heretofore on major regional policy documents.

JPC members supported more involvement of stakeholders in the development of the implementation policies and in the development of the Sustainable Communities Strategy, the use of more accessible language and user-friendly communication media, more clarity on the process for involving elected leaders as well as affected communities in the process, and greater emphasis on qualities that matter to people, recognizing that most people are not interested in travel modeling or abstract concepts like vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Costs to local governments were identified as a core issue, and sorting out the conflicts between rules and authorities at various levels was seen as a challenge.

It was moved and seconded, and it was the decision of the Committee:

THAT regional-agency staff engage in face-to-face discussions with our partner local agencies and other key stakeholders with the objective of bringing a consensus recommendation on implementation policies back to the JPC no later than its September 2009 meeting.

5. Regional Agency Climate Protection Priorities for 2009-10

Bruce Riordan, climate consultant to the JPC, presented six items which regional agency staff had identified as priorities for the coming year’s work on climate protection. These are:

- 1) Work on developing a Sustainable Communities Strategy, pursuant to SB 375;
- 2) Development of an Indirect Source Rule;
- 3) Pursuit of climate-friendly parking policy;
- 4) Facilitation of electric vehicles;
- 5) Construction of a regional financing mechanism to assist solar conversion and other building-energy-efficiency improvements;
- 6) Advancement of a regional/local adaptation strategy for sea-level rise.

Mr. Riordan also spoke to “Climate Bay Area (CBA),” a proposal to create a meeting place which would encourage information sharing and collaboration among the Bay Area’s panoply of public and private climate initiatives. CBA is designed to reduce

duplication of effort, build upon economies of scale, and enable more in-depth and rapid progress than would be possible by entities working in isolation.

JPC members and public commentators supported the six priorities and the concept of Climate Bay Area but had reservations about the proposed organizational structure for Climate Bay Area.

It was moved and seconded and was the decision of the Committee:

THAT the six priorities be adopted and that staff further develop and implement them with our regional partners;

THAT Climate Bay Area be adopted in concept, that staff proceed with work to bring the concept into being, but that approval of the structure be subject to a subsequent report back to the Committee.

6. Draft BCDC Staff Report and Preliminary Recommendations on Adapting to Climate Change

BCDC Executive Director, Will Travis, and BCDC Planner, Leslie Lacko, reported on the elements of a strategy to adapt to sea-level rise and associated amendments to the San Francisco Bay Plan.

Current projections are that there will be a 16-inch sea-level rise by mid-century and 55-inch change in average levels by 2100. With storm surge, we are likely to see significant flooding events increase over the next few decades, with what are currently 100-year floods becoming annual events by 2050 or earlier. Portions of 40 Priority Development Areas are vulnerable. There will also be significant equity consequences, as many potentially flooded areas are low-income and have few resources with which to adapt.

Committee members and members of the public agreed that both the environmental risks and the proposed policy responses were complicated and more time was required to understand and respond.

The Committee agreed that it should play a central role in further refining the adaptation strategy, particularly in relationship to other regional development and infrastructure objectives, and that additional information and analysis at the next Committee meeting was required.

7. ABAG General Assembly and BAAQMD Climate Action Leadership Summit

Supervisor Jacobs Gibson reported on the ABAG General Assembly. The Assembly was held on April 23rd, 2009, and focused on SB 375. Among the primary conclusions of those assembled were:

- Vigorous participation will be required to bring regional and local plans and policies into alignment and to build support for FOCUS, which is anticipated to be one of the principal elements of the Sustainable Communities Strategy;
- Regional-level funding to support local plans and capital is a top priority;
- Transit connectivity and efficiency will need to be enhanced;
- There will need to be meaningful CEQA incentives for appropriate development;
- The Sustainable Communities Strategy provides a significant opportunity to build a stronger region while reducing greenhouse gases; but
- Some smaller localities on the periphery of the region may perceive some negative impact as growth is directed away from their areas.

Mayor Torliatt reported on the Air District Climate Action Summit held May 4th, 2009, at the Fox Theatre in Oakland and attended by over 400 people.

The keynote speaker, Thomas Friedman, provided an inspiring presentation which emphasized the urgency of the climate-change problem, the importance of energy pricing as a motivator to action, the difficulty of the choices and actions ahead of us, and the potential to turn the challenges into economic opportunities for our region.

The plenary session also heard about the progress the region has made since the first Air District Climate Summit in late 2006. At that time, 29 Bay Area jurisdictions had prepared greenhouse gas inventory. By early 2009, 90 jurisdictions had completed inventories.

Breakout sessions provided information on future initiatives and practical actions which jurisdictions could take individually and collectively to make further progress.

8. Public Comment

A member of the public spoke to the importance of land conservation to real sustainability.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned shortly after noon.