



JOINT POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of May 20th, 2011 Held at 10:00 AM at the MetroCenter Auditorium, Oakland

Attendance:

ABAG

Jane Brunner
Dave Cortese
Mark Green
Scott Haggerty

BAAQMD

Tom Bates, Chair
Ash Kalra
Eric Mar
Mark Ross
Gayle B. Uilkema

BCDC

Geoffrey Gibbs
Sean Randolph
Brad Wagenknecht

MTC

Bill Dodd
Jake Mackenzie
Jim Spering
Adrienne Tissier

1. Call to Order

Chair Bates called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of the Joint Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of January 21st, 2011

The minutes of the January meeting were approved.

3. Approval of the Joint Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of March 18th, 2011

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

4. Election and Terms of Joint Policy Committee Officers

The Chair's proposal, that the JPC elect its own Chair and Vice Chair for two-year terms, was accepted.

The Committee elected Tom Bates as Chair and Adrienne Tissier as Vice Chair for terms ending June 30, 2013.

5. Proposal on Regional Economic Development and Resilience

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Ted Droettboom, Bruce Riordan, and Sean Randolph summarized the staff proposal. Steve Heminger, Ezra Rapport, Will Travis, and Jack Broadbent also spoke briefly in support of the initiative.

In discussion, members of the Committee and public commentators suggested a number of factors requiring consideration as the work proceeded:

- A recognition that a shift to a green economy might not be all positive; that, for example, a number of people involved in the processing, distribution, and sale of fossil fuels may lose their jobs;
- A need to get beyond aggregated economic data and deeply understand the needs of small- and medium-sized businesses;
- A requirement to consider existing and non-innovative businesses as well as startups and innovators;
- The involvement of real business people, those who actually make things, sell things and hire people; acknowledging from the start that working solely through business organizations and other advocacy groups will not be sufficient;
- A recognition that the requirements of tomorrow's economy, particularly for specific job skills, may not be identical with the needs of today's economy;
- A need to reach out and educate local-government leaders who have little current knowledge and interest in regional-level issues and challenges;
- A recognition that government "sets the table" for economic development by providing essential infrastructure and by providing incentive signals aligned with societal goals;
- The encouragement of economic adaptation to new needs and new markets;
- A focus on finance; things like feed-in tariffs that make resilient investments financially feasible;
- A need for electric-vehicle protocols and incentives that are consistent across the region and lead to investor and consumer certainty;
- The development of model ordinances and other prototypical initiatives which cash-strapped local governments can take off the shelf and deploy rather than have to develop themselves;
- The possibility of regional siting criteria for renewable power facilities to help overcome local opposition;
- The facilitation of connections between research laboratories (university and national) and businesses;
- The role of higher education;

- The realization that many things will ultimately have to be adopted by local governments and that local adoption is a difficult process without assured results;
- The primacy of jobs and payroll over corporate profits; i.e., the need to keep manufacturing jobs here rather than export them;
- The value of standardized permitting across jurisdictions to reduce confusion, increase certainty, and lower business costs, particularly costs in time expended;
- The need to not ignore the needs of heavy industry, particularly its labor requirements;
- The interrelationship of jobs and housing and the need for job-housing fit;
- The avoidance of unintended consequences and of dysfunctional intra-regional competition.

The authors of the proposal offered to amend it to take these considerations into account.

The recommendation in the staff memo was approved:

THAT the Joint Policy Committee direct the leadership of the regional agencies to proceed with the projects outlined in this memo.

To allow time for this work to proceed, the July JPC meeting was cancelled. The JPC will meet next in September and may consider a more frequent meeting schedule thereafter. Meetings scheduled only once every other month may not be enough to shepherd the aggressive work program.

It was suggested that future JPC meetings include presentations from business leaders, researchers, financiers and others relevant to the JPC's new self-determined mandate. A Committee member also urged, and the Chair agreed, that the mandate needed to be action-oriented, not just informative. It also needed to be mindful of the role of other government and quasi-governmental agencies, such as the PUC. All efforts needed to be aligned and supportive of one another.

6. Public Comment

Public commentators urged the JPC to:

- Be bold and collaborative;

- Facilitate the provision of affordable food stores in transit-oriented neighborhoods;
- Speak for the regional interest; and
- Advocate for a policy in the RTP that put “committed projects” to the same performance test as new proposals.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:50 AM.