



JOINT POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of May 21st, 2010 Held at 10:00 AM at the MetroCenter Auditorium, Oakland

Attendance:

| <u>ABAG</u> | <u>BAAQMD</u> | <u>BCDC</u> | <u>MTC</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Mark Green | Chris Daly, Chair | Richard Gordon | Tom Bates |
| Rose Jacobs Gibson | Ash Kalra | Charles McGlashan | Bill Dodd |
| | Mark Ross | | Jim Spering |
| | Pamela Torliatt | | Ken Yeager |

1. Call to Order

Chair Daly called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of the Joint Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of March 19th, 2010

The minutes of the previous JPC meeting were approved with an amendment to the summary of the discussion of 2010 Climate Priorities. That amendment clarified that health and environmental concerns continued to remain important even in light of current economic issues.

3. Air-quality and Greenhouse-gas Guidelines

Henry Hilken used a PowerPoint presentation to update the Committee on the current status of the Guidelines. Mr. Hilken's presentation is on the JPC website, http://www.abag.ca.gov/jointpolicy/jpc_presentations.htm.

Committee members congratulated Air District staff on the significant progress made in clarifying the guidelines and their application. Members were particularly appreciative of the work that had been done with local-government staff. This had turned severe disapproval and opposition into relative comfort and support. The Committee was also reminded that the CEQA and CEQA guidelines do not in themselves kill projects; they simply trigger reviews. The guidelines add greater certainty and facilitate more informed decisions. There was, however, still some residual discomfort about the involvement of the private sector in commenting and understanding the proposed guidelines and their impact. This discomfort was echoed in public comment.

One public commentator complimented the Air District on its efforts to protect public health, particularly in disadvantaged communities. Others worried about the

unintended consequences of the guidelines in discouraging infill development and adding additional hurdles and expenses to an already distressed housing industry. It was suggested that guidelines affecting housing location were particularly draconian in combination with emerging policies which may discourage development in low-lying areas because of sea-level rise. A commentator also posited that the guidelines needed to be more mindful of future technologies, particularly new vehicles that would obviate much of the current particulate matter problem. Another suggested that the next regional transportation plan should be held to a “net reduction” guideline rather than the currently proposed “no net addition” guideline.

4. Sustainable Communities Strategy (continuing discussion)

Doug Kimsey and Paul Fassinger expanded on presentations and discussions which had occurred over the past week at a joint meeting of the ABAG Administrative Committee and the MTC Planning Committee and at the ABAG Executive Board. They spoke about greenhouse-gas targets, housing targets and the local-government engagement process. A copy of their presentation to the JPC is available on the JPC website: http://www.abag.ca.gov/jointpolicy/jpc_presentations.htm.

In discussion, a Committee member suggested a serious consideration of a carbon tax as a transportation pricing/efficiency measure. Public commentators advocated for aggressive carbon targets supported by a full range of transportation and land-use strategies, for a broad range of public involvement and engagement opportunities, and for support of the Priority Development Area concept with increased resources and streamlining of CEQA and other regulations.

5. Climate Bay Area Progress

Bruce Riordan summarized progress on some key climate items documented in the regular progress report in the Committee’s agenda packet. He also provided a PowerPoint presentation illustrating some current Climate Bay Area initiatives. His presentation is on the JPC website: http://www.abag.ca.gov/jointpolicy/jpc_presentations.htm

6. Critical Events for the Bay Area’s Implementation of SB 375

The calendar was received for information.

7. Progress on Items of Interest to the Joint Policy Committee

The staff memo was received for information.

8. Public Comment

A representative of the American Lung Association signaled the interest of the public-health community in participating in the SCS process and assisting in the

identification and advocacy of health co-benefits. An equity advocated indicated that members of the social justice movement were meeting to organize their participation in the process, and a transportation advocate questioned the progress on policies and actions leading to greenhouse gas reduction.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:40AM.