

Legislative Action Committee
April 2, 2009

ATTENDANCE:

Cliff Hamlow – Azusa Pacific University
Doris Blum-GUSD School Board
Donna Lee – So. Calif. Edison
Marilyn Grinsdale – Citrus College
Mary Martinez – COUSD
Meaghan McLaughlin – Assemblyman Adams
Gene Morrill – Certified Auto

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Dr. Catherine Nichols - GUSD
Roberto, Jody - Senator Huff
Richard Rea – Congressman Dreier
Wetherby, Barret
Kugel, Jeff – City

Meeting called to order at 12:01 p.m.

Flag Salute

Welcome and Self- Introductions

Announcements:

Chairman's Report – Cliff reported that no Legislative lunches are currently scheduled, but he is still working on getting Congressman David Dreier to address the committee on what is going on in Sacramento. Due to the busy schedule of the Congressman, it has been suggested that the luncheon be held with other Chambers. It is better for the Congressman to address one large audience, than several smaller ones. Cliff then introduced speaker, Barry Weatherby who gave the committee an overview of the Route 39 reopening. Originally opened in 1958, Highway 39 was developed as an escape route for San Gabriel Valley residents from natural disasters. It was closed in 1978 because of disrepairs, but the reopening of this highway would aid the Forest Service, LA Sheriff's Dept and other emergency service agencies in the protection of the area and with search and rescue operations. Currently there are 4 project alternatives for repairs under consideration. Alternative 1 suggests making no repairs to the highway, leaving it closed at no cost. Alternative 2 is for rehabilitation of the existing roadway, installation of rock wall fencing etc, repairs to damaged steel walls, and construction of a 16.4 foot water-draining area with K-rail. Estimated cost is \$53,000,000. Alternative 3 is for rehabilitation of the roadway, construction of a bridge at Snow Springs etc. Estimated costs are \$65,000,000. Alternative 4 calls for much of the same and has been chosen by Caltrans as the best option. Cost is estimated at \$50,000,000. A petition to reopen Highway 39 to ensure that the residents of Azusa and surrounding areas have a viable means of evacuation during a major disaster and can benefit from the gorgeous scenery and recreational areas currently unavailable to them was passed around for signatures.

Cliff Hamlow gave the committee handouts concerning workers comp issues and the proposed rate increases. The committee was asked to review the proposals and write letters to their legislators if they felt the need.

Jody Roberto asked if the Glendora Chamber takes stands on issues? Her feeling is that if a group takes a stand on an issue it is more effective and has more impact on legislation.

Cliff Hamlow said yes. The Legislative Committee feels that it is important to keep our business members informed of legislation and how it affects them as businesses within the community. Jody and Meaghan were asked to get more information on SB33, SB22, AB323 and AB178 and report back to the committee.

Cliff suggested that the May 7th Legislative Action Committee meeting be opened to the membership for a review of the May ballot propositions. Jody Roberto and Meaghan McLaughlin were asked to present the propositions to the attendees.

Legislative Updates - Please limit reports to 3 minutes or less and bring handouts for the Committee:

Brian Mejia, Supervisor Antonivich: No report

Meaghan McLaughlin, Assemblyman Adams: Meaghan said that at the May 7th Legislative meeting she would only make present the ballot measures. Her understanding of the California Lottery and how funds from the lottery support California schools is limited.

Cliff Hamlow replied that the committee is looking for an analysis of the propositions, and a way to inform the membership. The proposed tax increases are hard to take, and the proposed budget is not perfect, but it is a beginning to getting California back on track. The May 19th Ballot Measures are confusing and clarification is needed so that people can make informed decisions when they vote.

Jody Roberto, Senator Bob Huff: Jody informed the committee that if they go to the Secretary of State website at www.secretaryofstate.com information on the ballot propositions is available. Jody then reported on the great turnout at the Education Summit recently held at Citrus College. She also reported that the Senator supports Proposition 1A which puts a spending cap on Sacramento, and that he has co-authored SB 129: District of Choice which would allow any school district to accept-inter-district transfers. Jody also mentioned SB 8: State Finance: performance budgeting, SB 266 concerning open enrollment and SB 719: Taxpayer Transparency Act of 2009.

Mary Martinez thanked the Senator for his support of the schools and education.

Richard Rea, Congressman David Dreier: Richard discussed HR 1409 which would allow labor organizations to receive certification if a majority of employees sign a petition to form a union. Budget reform remains a priority of the Congressman.

Ken Herman, City of Glendora: Jeff Kugel reported that his department oversees land-use planning and redevelopment for the City. Environmental issues are big and strict regulations are being placed on restaurants regarding grease waste. The City is hoping to implement annual inspections of area eateries, at a cost of \$200 per year instead of the \$400 charged by the County for inspections.

Glendora Unified School District, Catherine Nichols: Dr Nichols reported that the district supports SB 129 and 266. Years ago property taxes supported our schools, but that funding is now universal and not given directly to the schools. The perceptions remain however. Three Glendora schools have received California Distinguished Schools Awards \$6 million in cuts have been made to the budget and 64 classified employees will either be losing their jobs or having cuts made to their jobs

Charter Oak Unified School District, Mary Martinez: Mary reported that a job fair is being held on June 20th.

Marilyn Grinsdale, Citrus College: Marilyn reported that the college is holding an Earth Day Event on April 24th. May 22nd is the date for the California Workforce Greening event and graduation takes place on June 13th.

Metropolitan Water District, Luis Cetina: No report

So. Calif. Edison, Donna Lee: Donna reported that the Education Summit at Citrus was very productive as was The March 25 Energy Conference at the Edison C-TAC center. The State Assembly has approved AB 20 allocating a higher portion of highway funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to cities in LA County.

Bob Cruz, So, Calif. Gas: No report

Gene Morrill, Certified Auto: Gene reported that the AQMD is mandating that auto repair shops check customers tire pressure. The new environmentally friendly Freon has proved to not be environmentally friendly. HR 1550 proposes to get cars 15 years and older off the streets. Not a totally sound decision in today's economy. It would hurt repair shops and force people who can't afford newer vehicles, to purchase them.

Old Business:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.
Minutes recorded by V. Thompsett

