

Legislative Action Committee March 6, 2008 meeting minutes

ATTENDANCE:

Doris Blum – GUSD
Bushman, Dr. Patrick – Ludwick Fdn.
Cruz, Bob – The Gas Co.
Delgado, Corrine – Southland Properties
Grinsdale, Marilyn – Citrus College
Hamlow, Cliff – Azusa Pacific University
Harris, Jenetta – So. Calif. Edison

Johnson, Steve – Assemblyman Adams
Martinez, Mary - COUSD
Mejia, Brian – Supervisor Antonovich
Morrill Gene – Certified Auto
Nichols, Dr. Catherine - GUSD
Starkey, Jim – Senator Margett

Meeting called to order at 12:10 p.m. by Chairman, Cliff Hamlow

Welcome and Self- Introductions

Review of the February 7, 2008 minutes

Chairman's Report – Cliff Hamlow – Cliff reminded everyone of the State of the City Address with keynote speaker, Mayor Herman on March 7th at the Country Club at 7:30 am. On April 4th at GUSD Boardroom, Supervisor Antonovich will be speaking. On May 16th, an Education Forum with Glendora Unified and Charter Oak School Districts is scheduled and in June the utility companies will be presenting a joint Energy Forum with the San Dimas Chamber. Location and date of that venue still to be determined. Along with the Cal Chamber newsletter, Cliff encouraged everyone to sign up for the newsletters from Senator Margett and Assemblyman Adams. Don't forget the joint Azusa and Glendora Chamber Mixer at Azusa Pacific on March 17th.

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

Steve Johnson, Assemblyman Adams: Steve reminded everyone of the March 28th “Community Leaders Breakfast Briefing with Jeff Kightlinger, General Manager of the Metropolitan Water District” at Sierra La Verne Country Club from 7:30 – 9:00 a.m. Steve also mentioned frivolous lawsuits, SB 1899 dealing with monetary gifts to organizations, bill reforms for school budgets and taxing businesses owning property at a higher rate. Gene Morrill asked Steve to find out from the Assemblyman and the other legislators why gas prices keep going up. “Long term fuel contracts have expired, which adds to fuel costs” replied Steve. “And also we don't drill and meet our own needs,” mentioned Cliff. Hopefully if gas prices continue to rise, more people will ride the Gold Line which would also help with traffic congestion.

Richard Rea, Congressman David Dreier: No report

Jim Starkey, Senator Margett – Jim reported on SB 1192 concerning meal and rest periods. Current law states that employers must provide a meal or rest time within a 5 hour period. The new law would change it to a meal or rest period may commence at any time before the start of the 6th hour of work, or the employer is open to litigation. SB 1398 which will require individuals requesting a certified copy of a birth or death certificate to show a drivers license or other government issued identification. SB 1259 which broadens the scope of crimes against the elderly to include property and financial loss. Currently there are 104 nuclear power plants operating in the United States providing 20% of the nations energy needs. France, by comparison, sees 80% of its needs met by nuclear power. Currently there is an initiative in circulation that seeks to suspend the 1976 law and allow the construction of more nuclear plants in

California. Jennetta Harris asked what initiative and mentioned the importance of having permanent disposal sites in place before more plants are built.

Brian Mejia, Supervisor Antonovich - Brian reported that the Supervisor was instrumental in removing 6 sex offenders from an Altadena neighborhood. A study of “Jessica’s Law” is underway regarding the placement of sex offenders in neighborhoods. To see if sex offenders are living in your neighborhood, visit the County’s Sex Offender Locator Map at www.meganlaw.ca.gov. To provide San Fernando and Santa Clarita valley travelers a convenient, reliable and inexpensive alternative to commuting to LAX, the Supervisor recently unveiled a new dedicated bus service, “the Palmdale Flyer.” The restaurant grading system has shown a large decrease in food related illnesses and is a boon for restaurants with an A rating. Remember the May 24th Veterans Ceremony taking place at Arcadia County Park from 10 am to 3:00 pm. Corrine Delgado questioned why sex offenders are not placed on the outskirts of neighborhoods instead of inside the city boundaries.

Ken Herman, City of Glendora: No report

Glendora Unified School District, Catherine Nichols: Dr Nichols reported that the district continues to grapple with the budget issues. California is 46th in the nation for per child funding, yet over the next 18 months over \$5 million will need to be cut from the budget. 40 school superintendents are traveling to Sacramento to talk to our legislators about the impact such drastic cuts will have on California schools. Bob Cruz mentioned the complexity of school financing and the need to find a way to simply and add flexibility.

Charter Oak Unified School District, Mary Martinez - Mary reported that the district is trying to find ways to fund programs, and trying to get the message to the community what the budget cuts will mean to the education of their children. Current employees will have jobs thru July 1st.

Marilyn Grinsdale, Citrus College: Gave everyone a handout regarding two bills that are currently being watched by community colleges: AB 591 which allows part-time employees to teach up to 67% rather than 60% of the hours per week that a full-time employee teaches. And AB 906 which requires the Chancellor the California Community Colleges to randomly audit five community colleges annually to ensure compliance with current law requirements that 50% of a district’s current expense of education be spent on classroom instructor salaries.

Metropolitan Water District, Luis Cetina – No report

Jennetta Harris, So. Calif. Edison - No report

Bob Cruz, So, Calif. Gas: Bob reported that the utility companies are working on putting together the June energy forum. On May 9th a tour of Highway 39 is planned as an effort to get it reopened.

Old Business – New Business :

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.