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Economy & Efficiency Commission Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION

THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2001

ROOM 830, KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION

Editorial Note: Agenda sections may be taken out of order at the discretion of the chair. Any reordering of sections is reflected in the presentation of these minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER OF COMMISSION MEETING

With the presence of a quorum of commissioners, Chairman Philibosian called the Commission meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONER'S ABSENCES

Chairman Philibosian asked for a motion to approve absences.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Clayton Anderson
Fred Balderrama
Isaac Diaz Barcelona
Hope J. Boonshaft
Annie E. Cho
David W. Farrar
Jonathan Fuhrman
Jaclyn Tilley Hill
Tony Lucente
Roman Padilla
Robert H. Philibosian
H. Randall Stoke
Julia Sylva
G. Thomas Thompson
Tony Tortorice

COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED

Joanne Baltierrez
John Crowley
Chun Lee

Royal F. Oakes
William J. Petak

COMMISSIONERS NOT REQUESTING AN EXCUSE

None

It was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: **The Commission members requesting an excuse, be excused.**

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Philibosian asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the minutes. Hearing none the following motion was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: **The minutes of the February 1, 2001 Commission meeting be approved.**

IV. INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Philibosian introduced the newest Commissioner, Isaac Diaz Barcelona, an appointee of Supervisor Antonovich, Mayor of Los Angeles County. Commissioner Barcelona is the Commissions' second representative from the North County area. At present Commissioner Barcelona is Director of Public Relations from the Palmdale School District and has a great deal of experience in the media.

Commissioner Barcelona thanked Chairman Philibosian and greeted the commissioners by stating that he was very excited to be a member of the E&E Commission. He has spent 28 years in entertainment as a singer, songwriter and actor. He has been with the Palmdale School District for eleven years. The District publishes a quarterly magazine called Shaping The Future, which has grown into a biweekly television program. He is also a weekly columnist for the Antelope Daily Journal, and for the Hispanic publication, La Gazetta. Chairman Philibosian said the Commission looked forward to his participation and guidance.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Philibosian stated that Commissioner Barcelona would be assigned to the Grand Jury Task Force. Commissioner Hill expressed her gratitude for the assignment.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Staniforth mentioned that former Commissioner John FitzRandolph had died. He was a member of the E&E Commission from 1996 to 1998 and Dean of the Whittier Law School.

Mr. Staniforth notified the Commission that the Sunset Review Evaluation was due. Mr. Staniforth recommended that the Commission authorize the Executive Committee to take action to approve the final submission to the Audit Committee so this can be accomplished in a timely manner. Any commissioner can notify a member of the Executive Committee of changes that should be made.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Philibosian interjected that by rearranging the Agenda; the Sunset Review could become an item under New Business if there was no objection. Any commissioner can pass on suggestions to members of the Executive Committee who include the Chairman, Vice-Chair, and the each Task Force Chair. An Executive Committee conference call will be set up next week, which will give people time to read the Sunset Review Evaluation form, and comment. Chairman Philibosian made a motion to that effect and asked if there were any objections. Hearing none the following motion was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: The motion for the Sunset Review be referred to the Executive Committee for action be approved.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Mr. Staniforth has notified everyone by e-mail (or mail) of future Commission presentations to be made: on May 3, 2001 Ms. Connie McCormick, the Registrar Recorder will present: Voting in Los Angeles County, The Problems And Issues; on June 7, 2001 the District Attorney, Steve Cooley: Reorganization and The Priority of The District Attorney's Office; and on July 12, 2001 David Janssen: State of the County and the Budget.

Chairman Philibosian emphasized that top-level county officials have been and will be speaking to the E&E

Commission; hence good attendance is imperative for the substantive portion of the meetings, and for the speakers. In future presentations a deputy from each district will brief the commissioners on the district's individual boundaries and demographics in order to familiarize the Commission with their district. The meetings in September and October 2001 will have two deputies from each of the board offices.

Mr. Staniforth continued his presentation stating that the Local Government Services Commission received a memo that applies also to the E&E Commission, regarding discounts on Personal Computer purchases. Part of the purpose of the ID card was for receipt of these discounts.

The last item for discussion was: Control of On Going Projects. Mr. Staniforth will be developing a timeline for measuring performance of projects.

Mr. Staniforth introduced Erin Stibel, Deputy from the 4th District, representing Supervisor Knabe's Office. Ms. Stibel stated that she represented the Southeast cities of Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Winegardens, Paramount, and Lakewood (her home).

Finally, Mr. Staniforth stated that the E&E Commission had received the Productivity Investment Fund (PIF) Grant of \$196,800 to fund the Review of the Independent Living Program. The Finance Task Force will interview consultants' proposals in two weeks.

VII. LIAISON REPORTS

Local Government Services Commission

Commissioner Andes, the Local Government Services Commission Liaison (LGS), reported that the LGS Commission met on April 3, 2001. Mr. Gary Newman, Southern California Director of the League of California Cities, spoke regarding the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Task Force. A problem lies in the absence of a check and balance system between planning and operations. Long range planning has often eclipsed the level of attention and resources needed to meet the demands of an operating system.

The recommendations are as follows: The MTA Board should function as a broad policy-making body focusing on long range planning, revenue development, operations, performances measures, and establishing service coordination standards.

On the Regional Operating Board, the countywide transit system would be aligned into several regional operating areas or transit zones. A rail operations unit would be established to operate all transit rail systems within the county, exclusive of Metro Link. A construction authority would be established to oversee all construction of transit infrastructure projects, and may create temporary construction sub units to undertake and manage the projects.

Finally, when it appears that reconstruction of the MTA, as written above, can be implemented by the MTA Board through exercise of its authority under the utilities code section, there may be a need for legislation to clarify and restructure certain other aspects of Section 13000 that relates to expenditure authority in order to convey adequate authority to the operating entities contemplated by this proposal.

Mr. Staniforth was requested by Commissioner Crowley to attend the last meeting of the Local Government Services Commission. At the meeting he gave an update on the E&E Commission and its joint task force effort in the economic development area. The Local Government Services Commission expressed an interest in participating in the project with the E&E Commission that includes a review of the internal county economic development operations. The LGS would work on this same task outside the county structure i.e., with the eighty-eight cities. This cooperation could effect changes countywide.

Groups like the League of Cities, the Mayor's Office, and Contract Cities Association are represented on the Local Government Services Commission. Mr. Staniforth suggested that Mr. Rosenthal contact Chairman Philiposian or the Joint Task Force to initiate any action.

Quality and Productivity Commission

Commissioner Hill notified the E&E Commission that Commissioner Rew has been appointed to the Regional Planning Commission; and will be submitting his resignation from the Quality and Productivity Commission. A new liaison will be appointed.

Commissioner Hill noted that last month the Q&P Commission visited the Agricultural Commission's Director of Weights and Measures, Mr. Cato R. Fiksdal. This department has a wealth of data that is shared with other similar entities, but additional work needs to be done.

A strategic plan for collaboration among the commissions, as outlined by the CAO, is in operation. There are 40 network managers in each county department who are the conduit for administering programs; they link department heads with the messages conveyed to each department.

The Employee Suggestion Award Program is an opportunity for economy, efficiency, quality and productivity in Los Angeles County. Sheriff Baca has been innovative with his "If I Were Sheriff" Program, which involves all of his employees. Recruitment and retention of technology personnel is an important county issue, which could be an opportunity for the "Inside Looking Outside Committee".

The Productivity Investment Fund was pleased to support the E&E Commission's ILP Project.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Organization and Accountability

Commissioner Padilla updated the Commission starting with the background of the 1996 Unincorporated Services Report. In December of 2000, the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) came out with a comprehensive analysis of the E&E Commission Report, citing each recommendation, and describing what they had accomplished. In our response to the CAO Memo the E&E Commission felt that the county department should initiate a comprehensive policy for the county. The unincorporated areas islands' issue needs closer investigation. Orange County has a more comprehensive policy on islands and is more proactive in looking at that issue. Vice Chair Lucente asked if there were any language regarding the time frame for getting the response. Commissioner Padilla responded, no.

Mr. Staniforth interjected that since 1996, many items had been resolved and many individuals interviewed were no longer in county employment. The Organization and Accountability (O&A) Task Force presented informal comments to the CAO, instead of a report to the Board of Supervisors. The O&A Task Force has been supportive of the CAO's actions, even though they might differ in the direction.

Chairman Philibosian made a motion to approve the letter to the CAO and asked if there were any objections. Hearing none the following motion was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: The motion for the letter to the CAO be approved.

IX. PRESENTATION (a)

[Mr. Chris Dickerson](#)
[Press Deputy, 5th Supervisorial District](#)
[Topic: Characteristics of the 5th Supervisorial District](#)

[Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich](#)
[Mayor, Los Angeles County](#)
[Topic: State of the County](#)

Chairman Philibosian introduced the Fifth District's Press Deputy Chris Dickerson and Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor of the Los Angeles County and Chair of the Board of Supervisors. Their presentations were related to the Fifth District's problems and solutions in terms of the 2000 Census, the Health Department, Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and Regional Airports, Probate, Taxation, and Child Support.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS - TASK FORCE REPORTS (CONTINUED)

Grand Jury

Commissioner Hill stated that the Grand Jury Task Force has conducted approximately nine interviews. Former Commissioner Jeanne Kennedy has been very helpful. There will be a Grand Jury Task Force Meeting after the regular Commission Meeting to determine the new direction and search for gaps in areas that could provide further information. The Grand Jury Task Force has covered the issue from the perspective of the judges who were involved in the system, from judges who made decisions regarding the bifurcation of the Grand Jury, from those judges who are administering the services to the new bifurcated system, from the Grand Jury legal council supplied by the District Attorney, and from Steve Cooley, the District Attorney. It is critical that the Grand Jury be reflective of the constituency that it serves, and that the Superior Court and the District Attorney are able to proceed with their business.

Commissioner Stoke wondered if it were premature to ask whether the civil side of the Grand Jury was going to be saved? Commissioner Hill agreed that the question was premature. Chairman Philibosian

asked if there were a timetable for the recommendations. Commissioner Hill projected that the Grand Jury Task Force will be on the table by June 2001.

Commissioner Stoke asked if the sitting Grand Jury would make some recommendation as to what the future might be? Commissioner Hill stated that they lose their authority as of June 30, 2001. Commissioner Stoke questioned whether the sitting Grand Jury would have an opportunity to address their experiences prior to the end of their term? Commissioner Hill assured the Commission that those bases were covered, and the present Foreperson of the Civil Grand Jury has been interviewed. Chairman Philibosian remarked that if the current Civil Grand Jury wants to express their experience and the future of the Civil Grand Jury in their report that is their prerogative, the E&E Commission Review is totally independent.

Commissioner Fuhrman commented that Judge Bascue had mentioned that he was assembling a committee to review the Civil Grand Jury. The E&E Commission has several former forepersons who suggested that Judge Bascue might be receptive to receiving their advice. Has that happened? Commissioner Hill answered that former forepersons have met with Judge Bascue. Commissioner Fuhrman asked whether Jeanne Kennedy and the other former forepersons have been placed on Judge Bascue's committee? Commissioner Hill responded that there was not an official placement at this time, but Jeanne Kennedy did offer to be a resource. Commissioner Fuhrman asked if her offer had been taken? Former Commissioner Kennedy answered, no; however she received the judges' cards and were told that the former forepersons could call when they had any good ideas. Commissioner Hill responded that the judges have been very open, and Chairman Philibosian was impressed with the volumes of recorded information. Commissioner Fuhrman asked if there was an indication that they were paying attention to the questions, even though there were no recommendations. Commissioner Hill replied that the judges were very concerned that Los Angeles County has the finest system possible in order to attract and retain Grand Jurors.

Finance (CONTINUED)

Commissioner Thompson stated that three proposals from outside consultants have been received, and have been distributed to the Finance Task Force members. There are two to three more proposals expected. Friday, April 13, 2001 is the cutoff date. The Executive Director has been asked help coordinate a committee meeting. The proposals should be in hand by Monday, April 23, 2001 in order to make recommendations as to which group/or combination of groups should do the studies. Commissioner Fuhrman noticed that two of the proposals have fixed prices. One of the proposals gave a charge per hour, but had not the anticipated hours needed to complete the project. Can we get that updated to have a basic comparable fixed price commitment? Commissioner Thompson stated that would be a good idea. Commissioner Padilla asked if the Finance Task Force should look at ideas from a different perspective in light of Supervisor Antonovich's comments. Commissioner Thompson answered that the idea could be discussed during the task force meeting. He felt that Supervisor Antonovich was very supportive of the project and has a strong interest in its managerial and financial success. Commissioner Sylva commended the Finance Committee on the receipt of the PIF Grant and asked if they were at liberty to discuss the amount that was received? Executive Director Staniforth stated that the amount was \$196,800.

Policy

Commissioner Sylva reported that members of the Policy Task Force in conjunction with members from the Organization and Accountability Task Force met with the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC). The President & CEO, Lee Harrington met along with other LAEDC staff members, who included Greg Whitney, Vice-President of Business; and Greg Freeman, Public Policy Analyst. The meeting focused on making the county more user-friendly to business opportunities. Commissioner Sylva said that Mr. Harrington had suggested working on a short-term project dealing with permit streamlining. Commissioner Sylva is in the process of communicating with staff members and other stakeholders, i.e. directors of county departments to include them into the process and investigate their recommendations. The Policy Task Force met April 4, 2001 via teleconference.

Chairman Philibosian had a comment relevant to Supervisor Antonovich's and Commissioner Sylva's suggestions that the county be more user-friendly, he noted that the website for information under agendas and board action was on the Los Angeles County home page: www.co.la.ca.us/. He asked if it would not be simpler to have L. A. County.com, dot.org, or dot.gov? Chairman Philibosian remarked that in order to read the next paragraph to get access to the proceedings and documents, you need to go

to bos.co.la.ca.us/scripts/statements/htm. It may be more effective for the county needs to have L. A. County.gov with a number of links on the page, this would be more efficient: an issue commissions should look into. Commissioners Sylva, Hill, Padilla and Fuhrman concurred.

Commissioner Sylva stated that she distributed the Board of Supervisors' Agenda an Item for March 20, 2001 concerning, Economic Development, and she also welcomes participation of the Local Government Services Commission on the project.

X. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

Chairman Philibosian asked if there were any new business. Vice Chair Lucente mentioned that he had spoken with the Executive Director, regarding a recommendation that the E&E Commission establish standard committee conference times for efficiency in coordinating everyone's schedule. Commissioner Thompson agreed that there is a point of critical mass and that he was aware of the amount of time that Mr. Staniforth has spent with the Finance and the Grand Jury Task Force Projects. This issue needs to be discussed. Commissioner Hill stated that she has found that committee meetings and telephone conversations are working very well; and if the commissioners are absent, the information gets mailed or e-mailed. Commissioner Hill said that Commissioner Boonschaft received all of the Grand Jury Task Force information while in China, and is up-to-speed on the issues. Chairman Philibosian stated that the task force chairs in conjunction with their task force members could set up regular times in order to economize on the staff time.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Philibosian recognized Former Commissioner Jeanne Kennedy's assistance with the Grand Jury Task Force interviews.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion from the floor, Chairman Philibosian adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.



Bruce J. Staniforth
Executive Director

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