
Economy & Efficiency Commission Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1992
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 West Temple St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

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

Chairperson Buerk called the meeting to order.

II. APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONER'S ABSENCES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Gunther Buerk, Chair
Betty Trotter, Vice Chair
George Ackerman
Fred Balderrama
Richards Barger
Judith Brennan
Marshall Chuang
Louise Frankel
Dr. Mike Gomez
Carol Ojeda-Kimbrough
Roman Padilla
Robert Philiposian

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED:

Jack Drown
Jonathan Fuhrman
Chun Lee
Abraham Lurie
Randy Stockwell
Efrem Zimbalist

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Dr. Alfred Freitag
Daniel Shapiro

III. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

NOVEMBER 4, 1992 COMMISSION MEETING

Commissioner Trotter suggested that a formal welcome to Commissioner Brennan be added to the November minutes, indicating that it was her first meeting.

Commissioner Padilla referred to a failed motion concerning the Pension Study requiring the CAO to report within 60 days. That was not in the minutes and he would like to have it recorded.

Resolved that: The Commission amend the minutes of the November 4, 1992 meeting to include a formal welcome to Commissioner Brennan and that a failed motion in regards to the Pension Study, requiring the CAO to report within 60 days, be recorded.

Motion was seconded, voted and approved.

IV. INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT OF SILENCE ON THE DEATH OF COMMISSIONER GEORGE BODLE

Chairperson Buerk spoke of the contributions to the County and the Commission made by Commissioner Bodle who had passed away recently. Chairperson Buerk requested that the Commission stand and observe a moment of silence in Commissioner Bodle's memory.

V. OLD BUSINESS

PENSION FOLLOW-ON STATUS

Chairperson Buerk reported that the Pension Study was presented to the Board of Supervisors on November 17, 1992.

Commissioner Frankel gave a detailed report of the presentation and the Board's reception of the report. She then read from the Board Minutes, a motion to amend and approve certain recommendations of the report. The Task Force will continue its work while the actuary and independent counsel investigate options concerning deferred compensation and capping benefits in the future.

Mr. Staniforth commended the Task Force for the inclusion of recommendations and options for future actions. Supervisors and Board Staff appeared to be pleased with that aspect of the report. He then named a number of organizations and individuals from across the country to whom the report will be sent.

Commissioner Frankel commended Mr. Staniforth for his work with the Task Force and for the preparation of the consultants report into a framework with which the Task Force could work. She also commended Commissioner Brennan for her comments and input on the report at the last Commission meeting.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES STATUS

Commissioner Barqer gave a report in the absence of Commissioner Zimbalist. He reported some difficulties that arose with the consultants who had been tentatively selected to do the DHS Study. This situation has caused some confusion as to the appropriateness of the process and concern over the potential result. After consulting with the Task Force, Mr. Staniforth spoke with the consultants on this matter. To date, there has been no resolution of this matter.

Mr. Staniforth reported on the revised work plan in light of the reduction in scope and funding for the project.

Chairperson Buerk asked the Task Force to resolve the issues and return to the Commission with firm recommendations.

Commissioner Kimbrough offered an motion.

Resolved that: The Commission send a letter to the consultants expressing its concerns and requesting that reply to the Commission.

This motion was withdrawn after further discussion.

PROPOSITION A CONTRACTING STATUS

Commissioner Trotter reported that she had anticipated taking action on the letter responding to the Board's directive, as was discussed at the last Commission meeting, but that action by County departments has not been completed. Mr. Staniforth has contacted the CAO's office to determine what has been accomplished. There is currently a draft report in the CAO's office reviewing those actions. The Commission anticipates receiving this draft soon. After obtaining the final report from the CAO's office, the Task Force will forward a letter to the Board through the Executive Committee, if appropriate.

Commissioner Trotter also reported that there will be a second Public Defender's Office created, as a result of action taken by the Board. When the Public Defender could not take on a case, private attorneys were hired. Problems with over-billing have arisen over the years.

In addition, Commissioner Trotter reported on a Board agenda item concerning the Arboreta. As of January 1, the Arboreta, with the exception of the Descanso and Virginia Robinson Gardens, will be placed under the Department of Parks and Recreation. This action is in line with recommendations made by this Commission in a report submitted in 1990.

LIABILITY & RISK MANAGEMENT STUDY STATUS

With the absence of Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Barger reported that the Task Force on Liability and Risk Management had a conference call on Monday November 30 to discuss the contract. It is anticipated that this study will analyze the County workplace, highlighting the areas that have high risk exposure to both employees and the County. Supervisor Molina is interested in specific actions that would reduce escalating costs to the County. It would be up to the Commission to identify any additional areas of study.

After conferring with the Task Force, Mr. Staniforth was directed to meet with a consultant to insure that their proposal would conform with the direction of the Board. The consultants felt that they could accomplish what the Board and the Task Force wants out of this study. Mr. Staniforth reported that the consultants are in the process of revising their work plan. This revision will then be approved by the Task Force and communicated to the Board.

VI. PRESENTATION

Chairperson Buerk introduced Paul Richards, who is the President of the Independent Cities Association. He is also an elected official of the City of Lynwood and Assistant City Manager of The City of Compton.

The Independent Cities Association has about 49 member cities. He explained the interaction of the association with the State and County Governments and with other associations that represent cities. Independent cities are those cities that tend to operate their own services. Contract cities operate a portion of their municipal services by contract. It is possible for a city to be both a contract and independent city.

The Independent Cities Association has other collateral operations, such as lease-finance authority, a low cost means for cities to obtain financing other than through debt issuance. There is also a risk management authority through the Association.

It is possible for incorporated cities to feel that services for which they have contracted are being siphoned off by adjacent unincorporated areas. This issue was a problem during the civil unrest, where the demand for services, like police protection, was high.

The Association has not taken a position on the budgeting issue for unincorporated areas. When approaching the budgeting issue, there are several questions that need to be addressed. Determining actual boundaries of unincorporated areas should be considered in order to determine costs of services for those areas. A formalized needs assessment should take place for unincorporated areas. Whenever there is disparity in regards to service delivery systems, the adjacent incorporated area is going to feel some impact, so standards must be put in to place. A formalized system of delivery of these services while maintaining service standards should be considered. These are County services, considered to be base services by the population, although it is possible for some to pay a premium.

Commissioner Trotter stated that many would like to do away with unincorporated areas either by annexation or incorporating them as cities. She asked if the Association's had a position on helping cities to become incorporated.

Mr. Richards stated that it depended upon the jurisdiction that wishes to incorporate. If they can operate better as an incorporated city, the Association supports them.

Chairperson Buerk asked if it would be more desirable for all areas to be incorporated cities, with no unincorporated

pockets.

Mr. Richards responded by stating that this would be the ideal, if the resources were available. Service delivery is very expensive. It is more efficient to take in those unincorporated areas, but cities have worked hard to tailor services to their particular needs. Annexing unincorporated areas may disrupt or change levels of service.

Chairperson Buerk stated that if the County knew how much they were spending in unincorporated areas, it might be possible to consider giving this money to existing cities for the purpose of annexation.

When asked in what areas the Commission could aid the Association, Mr. Richards stated that the issues of unincorporated areas and redevelopment were central to the Association and he welcomed any input from the Commission

VII. NEW BUSINESS

GRAND JURY

Commissioner Ackerman requested the opportunity to make a presentation at the January meeting. He would like to suggest the creation of a Grand Jury Task Force to study the work of the Grand Jury, and follow up on what is being done to address some of those issues.

Commissioner Frankel suggested that Commissioner Ackerman make a presentation next month in lieu of having an outside speaker.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AT JANUARY MEETING

Mr. Staniforth explained the procedures for electing new officials, which is contained in the Operating Procedures of the Commission. Due to Brown Act requirements, there can be no absentee or secret ballots. Elections will take place at the January meeting. Mr. Staniforth was instructed to contact each Commissioner to determine if they wished to be considered for nomination to office before the January meeting and election, consistent with any potential Brown Act requirements.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION

Mr. Waddell gave a report of the last Productivity Commission Meeting. The main topic was the County-wide suggestion system. Procedures were drafted and approved at the last meeting. This will revitalize the program.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,



Bruce J. Staniforth
Executive Director

[Go to December 2, 1992 Agenda](#)

[Return to January 6, 1993 Agenda](#)



Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 163, 500 West Temple St.,
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone (213) 974-1491 FAX (213) 620-1437 [EMail eecomm@co.la.ca.us](mailto:EEComm@co.la.ca.us)
WEB eec.co.la.ca.us