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Economy & Efficiency Commission Presentation

Editorial Note: Although every effort has been made to insure the accuracy of the material in this presentation, the scope of the material covered and the discussions undertaken lends itself to the possibility of minor transcription misinterpretations.

**PRESENTATION BY
Supervisor Don Knabe
Chair, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Topic: A Vision for the County
June 2, 1999**

Chairman Abel introduced Supervisor Don Knabe, Chair of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (BOS). Supervisor Knabe stated that a number of the issues which the Economy & Efficiency Commission (EEC) is working on (Grand Jury recommendation implementation, debt collection, asset management, et cetera) are of great importance to his office.

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Chairman Abel stated that the EEC is very interested in the topic of fiscal reform and would like to assist in dealing with the structural deficit. *Supervisor Knabe* responded that about \$10 billion of the County's annual \$14 billion dollar budget is "pass-through" monies - allocated according to State and federal mandates, the remaining funds are discretionary. In addition, government by initiative has had a dramatic impact on local government budgets.

Supervisor Knabe proposed that maintaining and attracting businesses to the County is a way of increasing tax revenues without increasing taxes. He tries to use the Economic Development Corporation effectively to work with the cities in his district to retain jobs and attract future business. Cities are starting to work together on a regional basis to address transportation and quality of life issues. *Commissioner Barger* stated that there used to be a philosophy that the State of California was so big, with so many customers, that businesses had to be located in the State and endure all the potential grief in order to capitalize on the State's resources. But now, with current state of communications and distribution systems, a physical presence in the State is less necessary. He added that the recession of 1991 made a lot of believers out of those who were told that doing business in California was not advantageous to many businesspeople.

Recognizing the Supervisor's scheduling constraints and his desire to make a presentation to Commissioner

Buerk upon his retirement from the Commission, *Chairman Abel* asked Commissioner Hill to read a letter of appreciation from the Commission to Commissioner Buerk. Supervisor Knabe then presented Commissioner Buerk with a certificate signed by all five members of the Board which recognized 19 years of service to Los Angeles County government. Supervisor Knabe also presented Commissioner Buerk with an inscribed gift clock and stated that he has appreciated all of Commissioner Buerk's contributions through the years. *Commissioner Buerk* thanked all present, as well as former Supervisor Deane Dana, who originally appointed him to the EEC. He also thanked Supervisor Knabe. *Chairman Abel* thanked Commissioner Buerk for years of service, as well as Supervisor Knabe for his presentation to the EEC.

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