



**FRESNO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

**Presiding:
Ruth Evans, Chair
Brian Domingos, Vice Chair**

Committee: Government Affairs Council
Chairperson: Ruth Evans
Vice-Chair: Brian Domingos
Meeting Date/Time: July 9, 2014
Meeting Place: Fresno Chamber of Commerce
Committee attendees: Bill Avakian, Brian Domingos, Ruth Evans, Ryan Jacobsen, Cam Maloy, Victoria Salisch, Al Smith, Larry Fortune, Debbie Hunsaker, Austin Ewell, Nick Amendola, Lydia Zabrycki, and John Taylor
Committee absences: Jack Hall, Walt Plachta, Scott Miller, Lorraine Salazar
Staff: Rachel Eslick

CALL TO ORDER

- **Ms. Evans called the meeting to order at 12:07pm**
- **Approval of Minutes**
Larry Fortune moved to approve the June 11th meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Debbie Hunsaker. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Assemblyman Jim Patterson

Mr. Patterson thanked the GAC for support on several of his bills which he described as attempts not to deregulate but instead "re-regulate" how business is done in California. One of his bills still moving through the Senate is AB 1758, which would fix the over-charging for professional licensing. For instance, currently, if you register with the state as a massage therapist in January, then have a birthday in February, the state will say you need to renew your license because licensing is done by the applicant's birth date. Mr. Patterson believes this bill has a good chance of passing. He looks forward to continued communication between himself and the Chamber.

2. Consent Calendar

- A. **HR 1010 (Miller) Fair Minimum Wage Act**
- B. **AB 2235 (Buchanan) School Construction Bond**
- C. **AB 52 (Gatto) Native Americans: California Environmental Quality Act**
- D. **AB 2616 (Skinner) Worker's Compensation: hospital employers: compensation**

Ryan Jacobsen asked to pull item B off the consent calendar for further discussion. The consent calendar was approved, excluding item B with a motion from Brian Domingos and a second from Larry Fortune. The motion passed unanimously.

Regarding item B, AB 2235, Mr. Jacobsen didn't understand why the Chamber would support another general obligation bond on the November ballot. Several others had similar concerns. School districts must match funds provided by the state, which would lead to even more school bond measures. Lacey Kiriakou from UC Merced was in the room and was asked how construction projects at the university would be impacted by this bond. She's going to get the answer and report it back to the GAC.

Debbie Hunsaker made a motion to table taking action until we have more information. Lydia Zabrycki seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Legislative Items

Julie Griffiths, Consultant

Ms. Griffiths presented information on the many coalitions attempting to stop the implementation of AB 32 that would place "fuels under the cap" as of January 1, 2015. She believes if enough people are vocal about the devastating impacts it would have on our economy, the implementation will be delayed.

Additionally, she updated the GAC on another coalition, Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse. She says ADA lawsuits against small, minority-owned businesses are persisting, but a recent NPR piece shed more light on the issue. She says at any given time, about 100 lawsuits are pending against businesses in the Fresno area. Legislation introduced this year to try and stop the abuse was not successful, but it'll be brought back next year.

AB 69 (Perea) Fuels Under the Cap Delay

Erica Cabrera from Assemblyman Henry T. Perea's office presented this bill, which would delay the implementation of transportation fuels under AB 32. Under current law, as of January 1, 2015, oil companies would have to buy carbon credits for diesel and oil and the price would be passed on to consumers. Estimates are that the price of gasoline and diesel could go up by 4-19%. Perea's bill would delay the implementation of fuels under the cap until January 1, 2018.

Ms. Hunsaker made a motion to support the bill, which was seconded by Mr. Domingos. The motion passed unanimously.

Bay Delta Conservation Plan

B.G. Heiland of the California Department of Water Resources presented this complex, \$24 billion dollar tunnel project, which would transport water through the state. It's currently in the research, design, and public outreach phase. The project would combine water transportation, funded by water contractors, with habitat restoration, which is currently unfunded.

GAC members and those in the audience expressed concern over the lack of water storage within the plan. Gayle Holman of Westlands Water District supports BDCP because it would provide water at consistent, lower price than the steep prices contractors are paying now.

Cam Maloy made a motion to table the discussion at this early phase of the project. Victoria Salasich seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Restoration Services Tax

Damon Kurtz of the Fresno Police Officers Association presented a half cent "restoration services tax" that FPOA is asking the council to approve for the November ballot. It would need a simple majority to pass. Sacramento recently passed a similar tax. FPOA did polling to determine whether the public would support a tax to supplement the general fund for services like hiring more police officers and fixing pot holes. There would be a citizen oversight committee, but if it passed, the council would determine how the estimated \$37 million per year would be spent.

Ruth Evans informed Mr. Kurtz that the Chamber worked diligently some years ago to encourage consolidation of certain public safety services and the issue eventually fizzled out. Ms. Evans says the Chamber will have a hard time supporting any new taxes, particularly after going through the ordeal of trying to save the city and county money. She thanked him for taking the time to present it to the GAC.

This was an informational item only.

Central Valley Transmission Upgrade Project

Raj Beasla of PG&E presented the Central Valley Upgrade project, which is now in the planning stages. It would add about 70 miles of transmission poles to connect substations Gregg and Gates, which is basically from Huron to Herndon and 99. The path has not been selected but PG&E and partner agency Mid American Transmission are working with landowners to find the most agreeable route.

Mr. Beasla said the project is necessary because energy use is going up in the Central Valley. Additionally, it will utilize the Helm Project, a massive hydro plant, which is currently not getting enough juice to be functioning to its maximum potential. The projected is estimated to be complete in 2020.

Mr. Domingos made a motion to support the project and Mr. Fortune seconded it. The motion passed unanimously with the exception of Cam Maloy (PG&E employee), who abstained.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Evans encouraged members to attend the next Eggs & Issues with Assemblyman Henry T. Perea at the Piccadilly on W. Shaw, Friday, Aug. 1st at 7:30am.

Updates will given on the Brenntag project, which is set to go before City Council in late August. Also, a previous GAC decision to oppose MICRA (Troy and Alana Patient Safety Initiative) will be Prop 46 on the November ballot.

ADJOURNED

- **Ms. Evans adjourned the meeting at 1:42pm.**