



**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: May 14, 2014  
Meeting Place: Fresno Chamber of Commerce  
Committee attendees: Nick Amendola, Bill Avakian, Brian Domingos, Ruth Evans, Austin Ewell, Ryan Jacobsen, Cam Maloy, Scott Miller, Walt Plachta, Lorraine Salazar, Victoria Salisch, John Taylor and Lydia Zabrycki  
Committee absences: Al Smith, Jack Hall, Larry Fortune and Debbie Hunsaker  
Staff: Rachel Eslick

**CALL TO ORDER**

- **Ms. Evans called the meeting to order at 12:05pm.**
- **Approval of Minutes**  
Austin Ewell moved to approve the April 9th meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by John Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Consent Calendar**

Lorraine Salazar moved to pull AB 1660 off the consent calendar for further discussion. Scott Miller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Victoria Salisch moved to approve the consent calendar. Mr. Ewell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Below are the bills on the consent calendar and the position taken by the GAC:

AB 1897 (Hernandez) Labor Contracting Client Liability - Oppose  
AB 1792 (Gomez) Public Benefits Reports on Employers – Oppose

AB 2372 (Ammiano) Change in Ownership – Oppose  
AB 2420 (Nazarian) Well Stimulation Treatment Local Prohibition – Oppose  
AB 2617 (Weber) Arbitration and Settlement Agreements – Oppose  
SB 1021 (Wolk) Commercial Property Tax – Oppose  
SB 1132 (Mitchell) Limits in State Energy Development  
SB 1372 (DeSaulnier) Increased Tax Rate – Oppose  
AB 2416 (Stone) Unproven Wage Lien – Oppose  
SB 1351 (Hill) Payment Cards – Oppose  
SB 1446 (DeSaulnier) Health Care Coverage Small Employer Market – Support  
AB 1763 (Perea) California Energy Portfolio - Support

**2. Congressman Jim Costa – General Information and Thank You**

Congressman Jim Costa updated the council on progress with water legislation and reassured everyone that he's working diligently everyday to get a bill passed. He said there's ongoing dialogue between himself, Congressman Nunes and Valadao and Senator Feinstein. He hopes they have a bill out by June or July.

Additionally, he has bills out on water storage to add space in three existing reservoirs and to build Temperance Flat.

He believes an immigration bill won't happen with the current congress, but maybe during the lame duck session.

Costa thanked the Chamber for endorsing him in his campaign for reelection. He also took several questions from the GAC.

**1.5 Consent Calendar Continued**

The merits of AB 1660 were discussed, which would clarify California law to allow employers to fire an employee if they provide ID that shows they're undocumented. Current law (AB 60) does not line up with federal law because it says no employer can discriminate against an employee who shows a driver's license which indicated they're undocumented. Ms. Salisch said state and federal law should be the same, and AB 1660 would accomplish that. Ryan Jacobsen moved to approve supporting AB 1660. Lydia Zabrycki seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**3. Common Core Coalition**

The Fresno Chamber was asked to join a coalition of groups that support Common Core. The coalition formed to show legislators there is a backing for Common Core, which has come under fire recently by grassroots activists.

Debra Brown, Associate Director of Education Policy for Children Now presented support for the coalition over the phone. She said nearly 300 groups have signed on to support Common Core, a style of teaching that serves to encourage students to critically think instead of simply memorizing formulas and answers. It was signed by then Governor Schwarzenegger in 2010 and has been put into place in most California school districts. By implementing Common Core, the state has an opportunity to apply for federal grants like Race to the Top, but federal funding isn't expressly tied to Common Core. That said, there is an effort to increase funding to provide more training to school districts to implement Common Core.

Melissa Capece-Fairless, an advocate and mother who lives in Clovis, presented for the opposition. She claimed Common Core was signed and implemented without the public knowing, no educators were consulted in developing curriculum and teachers aren't receiving proper training to teach Common Core principals. She said the federal government is gaining access to information about students. She is disappointed Algebra wouldn't be taught until 9<sup>th</sup> grade, eliminating Calculus from being taught in high school and classic literature is being replaced by non-fiction. She would like to send a message to legislators to request Governor Brown turn away from Common Core and take the federal government out of our schools.

After a series of follow up questions, it was determined that the two sides were very far apart and contradictory. The GAC felt it needed more information on the topic to make an educated decision on whether to support the coalition for Common Core. Ms. Zabrycki wished to know the cost of Common Core to tax payers.

Cam Maloy made a motion to table the discussion. Ms. Salisch seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- **Adjourned to closed session at 1:05**

Action taken during closed session:

GAC supports the McCall Oli/Brenntag business proposal and will write a formal letter to the Fresno Planning Commission stating the merits of the project.

- **Closed session was adjourned at 1:55pm.**