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Legislation Committee
March 14, 2008

Minutes

Vice Chair Yeager called the committee to order at 11:45 a.m. Members attending: Azumbrado, Chu, Dodd, Giacopini, Halsted, Spering, and Worth. Also attending: Commissioner Tissier.

Minutes

Minutes of the February 8, 2008 meeting were approved following a motion by Commissioner Spering that was seconded by Commissioner Dodd.

Legislative History

Ellen Griffin distributed copies of the March 7, 2008 edition of the history and reviewed bills of interest to the committee, noting the April 18th deadline for bills to be heard in policy committees.

Commissioner Dodd asked if there was a bill to lower the voter approval threshold from a two-thirds majority to 55 percent [for bonds, yes, ACA 10; however, not yet for sales tax measures]. After discussion, the committee agreed with a motion by Commissioner Dodd and a second by Commissioner Spering to direct staff to pursue such a bill for sales tax ballot measures.

Regarding AB 2870 to create a California Blueprint Implementation Commission, Commissioner Spering asked staff to add the bill to the committee's agenda next month.

Legislative Visits

Ms. Griffin said that May 7 was set for the Sacramento advocacy trip, centered on a transportation briefing for the Assembly Bay Area Caucus from noon to 1:30 p.m. She said that as many meetings as possible with Senators and the Transportation Committee Chairs in both legislative houses would be sought for the same day. She encouraged all members of the Legislation Committee to attend on May 7.

State Legislation

Randy Rentschler presented the following bills to the committee for consideration.

- SB 1731 (Yee) to add an extra dollar to the \$1 fee now paid by motorists who register their vehicles in the nine-county region, in order to support the SAFE program.
- AB 2094 (DeSaulnier) to make the Bay Conservation and Development Commission a full, voting member of the Joint Policy Committee.
- SB 344 (Machado) to provide statutory clarification for local governments to temporarily re-purchase outstanding bonds without causing their bonds to be extinguished or defeased.

Moved by Commissioner Chu and seconded by Commissioner Worth, SB 1731 and AB 2094 were unanimously referred to Commission for approval of a "support" position; on the same motion the committee ratified a "support" position on SB 344 and unanimously referred it to Commission for approval.

Transportation 2035 Public Participation Update

Catalina Alvarado presented an overview of public participation activities planned for this spring for MTC's Transportation 2035 Plan, including a series of workshops around the region – one in each county. She said MTC will contract with community-based organizations for assistance in recruiting residents in low- income communities and communities of color to participate in focus group discussions about investment trade-offs, and will continue to make its Web site an on-line source of information about ongoing efforts to update the regional transportation plan, including interactive surveys.

MTC Excellence in Motion Awards

Pam Grove reminded commissioners how helpful their assistance is in getting the word out about MTC's awards program to spotlight the positive news about transportation. For Commissioner Giacomini, the grand award was clarified as one that generally recognizes large projects, such as Caltrain's Baby Bullet service. Nominations will be accepted through Friday, May 9, 2008.

MTC advisor Rich Hedges spoke on behalf of the late Congressman Tom Lantos's achievements in transportation, for which Mr. Hedges said he would submit an awards application.

Tom Bulger's Report

Mr. Bulger's report was received by the committee.

Other Business/Public Comment/Adjourn

As public comment, Carli Paine of the Transportation and Land Use Coalition (TALC) said her organization supports AB 2744 (Huffman) to authorize MTC to seek voter approval to impose a regional fee of up to 10-cents per gallon on motor vehicle fuel (excluding aircraft fuel). There was no other business or public comment. The next meeting was scheduled for April 11, 2008, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.