

**Legislative Action Committee
November 5, 2009**

ATTENDANCE:

Hamlow, Dr. Cliff – Azusa Pacific University
Blum, Doris – GUSD Foundation
Cruz, Bob – The Gas Co.
Lee, Donna – So. Calif. Edison
Mejia, Brian – Supervisor Antonovich
Quan, Jennifer – League of Calif. Cities

McLaughlin, Meaghan – Assemblyman Adams
Nichols, Dr. Catherine - GUSD
Roberto, Jody – Senator Huff
Ruh, Bill – Citrus Valley Assoc. of Realtors
Smith, Dr. Christine - COUSD

Meeting called to order at 12:10 p.m.

Flag Salute

Welcome and Self- Introductions

Approval of the November 5, 2009 minutes

Chairman's Report, Cliff Hamlow –Cliff reported that pollsters are seeking signatures regarding reforms to the legislative budget process. The committee was reminded of the State of the City, State of the Schools address on January 21st at the Country Club.

Jennifer Quan from the League of California Cities made a presentation to the committee regarding the problem of the State taking monies from local governments and transportation funds in spite of ballot measures passed by California voters to prohibit them from doing so. Despite this, the State recently passed a budget that borrows and takes approximately \$5 billion in city, county transit, redevelopment and special district funds and the State continues to threaten to borrow or take billions in transportation funds each year. Californians to Protect Local Taxpayers and Vital Services proposes to prohibit the State from taking, borrowing, or redirecting local taxpayer funds dedicated to public safety, and other vital local government services, protect local taxpayers, and reform state government and enhance fiscal accountability with “The Local Taxpayer, Public Safety and Transportation Protection Act” scheduled for the November 2010 statewide ballot.

Cliff Hamlow questioned how the ballot measure, if passed, would be enforced, would it lead to higher taxes and who opposes the measure?

Jennifer Quan replied that no opposition to the measure has been reported. The measure protects sales taxes on gasoline, municipalities, and redevelopment dollars and one million signatures are needed to get the measure on the ballot. She asked the committee for a formal endorsement of the measure.

Bob Cruz commented that it is important to get the information out to the public to protect our tax dollars and improve the quality of life for local communities. The Chamber has the responsibility to provide the pros and cons of the measure so that voters can make an informed decision in November.

Cliff Hamlow asked that the decision be tabled until the February meeting to allow more time to study the measure. Meaghan McLaughlin and Jody Roberto were asked to check with their bosses and report back to the committee.

Legislative Updates - Please limit reports to 3 minutes or less and bring handouts for the Committee:

Brian Mejia, Supervisor Antonovich: Brian reported that the Supervisor is launching a “Crimestopper” program for LA County. The program will offer rewards to anonymous tipsters who provide information leading to the apprehension and prosecution of criminals. January 2011 is the date The Nursing Home Rating Inspection law will start being implemented. Brian was asked to report back to the committee on the differences between nursing homes and assisted living.

Meaghan McLaughlin , Assemblyman Adams: Meaghan reported that the Assemblyman is not seeking re-election in November. He is currently finishing work on his legislative package. California could potentially

receive as much as \$350 - \$700 million in grant funds, but the issuance of the funds is very competitive. The "Race to the Top" bill will make significant changes to the education code.

Doris Blum commented that the open enrollment portion of bill could affect lower performing school districts.

Jody Roberto, Senator Bob Huff: Jody reported that the Democrats are not happy with the student performance tie-in associated with "Race to the Top." California budget issues are still a major concern. The State is actually considering going to the Federal Government for help with its financial crisis. The Senator is working on his legislative package.

Richard Rea, Congressman David Dreier: No report

Ken Herman, City of Glendora: No report

Glendora Unified School District, Dr. Catherine Nichols: Dr. Nichols reported that Ken Kay from 21st Century Skills has the following speaking dates available:

March 16, 2010

March 17, 2010

March 18, 2010, but his fee is \$7,000. The San Gabriel Valley Education Coalition and AXA have some funds available, but not enough to cover everything. Could his presentation be tied in with Senator Huff's Education Summit scheduled for March 18th?

Jody Roberto said she would check with Senator Huff about having Mr. Kay speak at the Education Summit, but could not promise anything.

Charter Oak Unified School District, Dr. Christine Smith: No report

Marilyn Grinsdale, Citrus College: No report

Metropolitan Water District, Luis Cetina: No report

So. Calif. Edison, Donna Lee: Donna reported that Edison is growing and hiring. The TRTP wind project in the Antelope Valley is going well and striving to meet environmental regulations.

Bob Cruz, So, Calif. Gas: Bob suggested the committee to invite Glendora's Police Chief to attend the next legislative meeting. Meghan McLaughlin was asked to check with the city of La Verne and report back on their Crimestoppers program.

Gene Morrill, Certified Auto: No report

Old Business: No report

New Business: Cliff Hamlow reported that APU's Business School will be offering free seminars on how to start a small business during these tough economic times on Tuesdays in March. He said he would get more information to the Chamber.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.
Minutes recorded by V. Thompsett