

## Legislative Action Committee June 5, 2008 Meeting Minutes

### ATTENDANCE:

Blum, Doris - GUSD

Cetina, Luis – Metropolitan Water District

Flores, Sarah

Foxworth, Mike – Foothill Presbyterian Hospital

Grinsdale, Marilyn – Citrus College

Harris, Jennetta - Edison Co.

Morrill, Gene – Certified Auto

Starkey, Jim – Senator Margett

Mejia, Brian – Supervisor Antonovich

Delgado, Corrine – Southland Properties

Cruz, Bob – The Gas Co.

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### Meeting called to order at 12:11 p.m. by Gene Morrill

**Review of the May 1, 2008 minutes** – minutes approved by Jennetta Harris and seconded by Doris Blum.

**Chairman's Report – Gene Morrill reporting for Cliff Hamlow** – Gene reported on the June Legislative Luncheon at the Glendora Unified School District boardroom with speakers from the school districts. Dr. Nichols and Dr. Harwick gave an excellent overview of the fiscal crisis facing our schools. Gene reminded everyone that the Legislative Committee meeting will be dark in July, resuming in August with a discussion of the upcoming ballot initiatives. Copies of the November 4<sup>th</sup> election ballot propositions were handed out for everyone to review before the August 7<sup>th</sup> Legislative Action Committee meeting. *The suggestion was made to start having all bills to be reviewed sent to Valarie to compile in an email format and sent to the committee for review before each meeting.*

Doris Blum commented that four school districts will be greatly affected fiscally if the current budget goes through. Doris then suggested that we invite representatives from Azusa Pacific University and Citrus College to our legislative lunches.

Jennetta Harris reminded everyone of the upcoming Utilities Forum on June 12<sup>th</sup> being held at Citrus College Innovation Center. Boxed lunches are being served, so reservations are necessary. Be prepared to discuss the ballot initiatives at the August meeting.

Marilyn Grinsdale said that parking signage will be put out and that parking should not be a problem at Citrus College for the Utilities luncheon.

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

**Steve Johnson, Assemblyman Adams:** Steve reported that the budget as of January was showing a \$14.5 billion deficit. As of May the amount will increase by another 6 billion and will continue increasing until spending comes under control. The Governor's proposed lottery plan would place a cap on education funds. California per capita lottery spending is half as much as the national average.

**Carlos Cortez, Congressman David Dreier:** No report

**Jim Starkey, Senator Margett** – Jim reported that the Senate Republican caucus is reporting a \$22 billion budget deficit, not \$17 billion as reported by the Governor. And spending in the proposed budget is increased not decreased as promised. An Emergency Response Tax is being proposed by the U.S. Forestry Department and California Fire District. Two Glendora schools received California

Distinguished School awards and as of today, 8 propositions have qualified for the November ballot. Four measures are pending signature confirmation and 25 measures are circulating. The California Chamber has published a list of “job killer bills.”

**Brian Mejia, Supervisor Antonovich** - Brian reported that the Supervisor is working on sex offender regulations at the County level. He is also working on a disarm program and looking to place satellite Register Recorder offices in various locations to lessen the commute for San Gabriel Valley residents. The Supervisor continues to work on emergency preparedness plans for the Valley as well as plans to handle international emergencies. Don't forget the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Music Festival presented by the Supervisor on Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> from noon until 7:00 pm at Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park in San Dimas.

**Ken Herman, City of Glendora** – No report

**Glendora Unified School District, Doris Blum** – Doris discussed the budget deficit the schools are facing and said the State budget needs to include cuts as well. No tenured teachers are facing lay-offs, only temporary staff and classified staff will be let go. The proposed budget is a major job-killer.

**Charter Oak Unified School District, Mary Martinez** - Bob Cruz reported that Charter Oak School District is facing the same fate as Glendora as far as letting people go and cuts to programs and services due to the proposed budget cuts.

**Marilyn Grinsdale, Citrus College** – Marilyn reported that the Citrus College Board of Trustees has hired Geraldine M. Perri, PhD as superintendent/president of Citrus College. She will begin on July 1<sup>st</sup> as the successor to Michael J. Viera, PhD., who retires at the end of June.

**Metropolitan Water District, Luis Cetina** – Luis reported that the state is in an official drought situation. He asked for the Chamber's support of AB2938 which regulates the diversion of water for agriculture and protects sensitive fish species and SB1391 to reform California's definition and regulation of recycled water.

Jennetta Harris made the motion to support AB2938 which was seconded by Sarah Flores.

Jennetta Harris made the motion to support SB1391 which was seconded by Bob Cruz.

**Jennetta Harris, So. Calif. Edison** - Jennetta reported on the “so-called Renewable Initiative” which is attempting to appeal to voters support for renewable energy. However, California utilities feel that the bill is so poorly drafted that it could result in higher energy costs and jeopardize electric system reliability by thwarting clean energy projects already underway, and increasing the risk of another state energy crisis. Many solar plants and wind farms are in remote desert or rural areas that are difficult to connect to the power grid. This measure could actually add billions more in costs because it does not address the major hurdles to transmission development and could exacerbate problems by making bureaucratic changes that shift responsibility from one government agency to another without the experience or staff to handle the workload. This measure also accelerates the demand for new technologies and the lack of a competitive market could actually inflate prices. Jennetta asked the committee to take a stand in opposition of this measure.

After a period of discussion, Gene Morrill suggested that Jennetta bring more information to the table regarding the pros and cons and to give the committee more time to review the information before making a decision to oppose.

Bob Cruz asked to have it reflected in the minutes that the Legislative Committee should not have to go to the Board of Directors for stance approval of initiatives. The Legislative Priorities were drafted to give the committee the ability to take stands on measures with out Board approval.

**Bob Cruz, So, Calif. Gas:** No report

**Old Business – New Business :**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm

Minutes recorded by J. Loomis  
Typed by V. Thompsett