

Legislative Action Committee
November 5, 2009

ATTENDANCE:

Hamlow, Dr. Cliff – Azusa Pacific University
Bushman, Dr. Patrick – Ludwick Fdn.
Grinsdale, Marilyn – Citrus College
Lee, Donna – So. Calif. Edison
Mejia, Brian – Supervisor Antonovich
Blakely, Katie – Congressman Dreier

Morril, Gene – Certified Auto
Mouch, Meaghan – Assemblyman Adams
Rea, Richard – Congressman Dreier
Smith, Dr. Christine - COUSD
Ruh, Bill – Citrus Valley Assoc. of Realtors
Assemblyman Anthony Adams

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

Flag Salute

Welcome and Self- Introductions

Amendment to the October 1, 2009 Minutes: “ Issues are rising concerning the erroneous taxation of some residents and businesses by LA County – should read by the City of Los Angeles”

“they are a sponsor of the Fair Energy House – should read they are a sponsor of the Department of Energy House at the Fair.”

Approval of the October 1, 2009 minutes

Chairman’s Report, Cliff Hamlow –Although the committee is still considering the possibility of hiring Ken Kay, President of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills to speak at an upcoming Legislative Luncheon, the only way to cover his fee of \$5,000 to \$7,000 would be to get major sponsors to cover the cost. Bill Ruh suggested that the committee ask Habib Balian to speak about the Gold Line instead and invite the San Dimas and La Verne Chambers to participate. Possible months to hold this luncheon are February or March 2010. Mark your calendars for the upcoming State of the City and State of the Schools Address scheduled for January 21, 2010. Approximately 125 people attended the Legislative Power Lunch hosted by the W. Covina Chamber of Commerce. Panelists included Senator Bob Huff and Supervisor Antonovich.. The Goldline was officially put into the general plan at the last MTA meeting. Funding will be the next issue to be tackled.

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

Brian Mejia, Supervisor Antonovich: Brian reported that the Goldline rail car manufacturer did not sign a contract.. The initiative to post nursing homes ratings was approved. There is no fee to reassess property taxes on ones residence, so letters asking for a \$180 fee for a reassessment are fraudulent.

Assemblyman Adams: Assemblyman Adams reported that he has laid the groundwork for legislation regarding water infrastructure, ground water cleanup and storage for the San Gabriel Valley. Water needs for California are difficult to manage due to the vast differences between cities and rural areas. It has taken California 20 years of back-peddling to reach this point in our water crisis. The structure of a 41 mile peripheral canal to provide a sustainable source of water and protect the eco system was voted on by the legislature, but will require \$11 billion in bond funds to achieve. Although the amount of money is huge, the impact to California without the canal would be devastating and it is important that people understand the issues and how bond measures work. The committee was invited to check out the government website: www.leginfo.ca.gov. The Assemblyman reported that 5 bills he has presented to the Governor have been signed and include legislation on foster care and business development.

Bill Ruh commented that there was a plan to build a peripheral canal 30 years ago.

Gene Morrill asked the Assemblyman to comment on the \$3,000 tax credit for hiring employees.

Assemblyman Adams answered that the purpose of the tax credit is to get people off unemployment, but California also needs to look at the unfair obligations placed upon employers that other states do not have. Regulations that hurt businesses need to be stripped away. State wide California has an unemployment rate of 12.2%.

Gene Morrill asked the Assemblyman to comment on the upcoming governor race.

Assemblyman Adams commented that from his viewpoint he sees Jerry Brown or Meg Whitman as the two front-runners.

Cliff Hamlow thanked the Assemblyman for taking time from his busy schedule to stop by to update the committee on “what’s new in Sacramento.”

Jody Roberto, Senator Bob Huff: No report

Richard Rea, Congressman David Dreier: Richard reported that the deadline for applicants for the Dreier Service Academy is November 6, 2009. The Subway to the Sea won’t break ground for 10 years, however the Goldline is a true regional proposal, so the MTA should not close off the chance to receive federal funding. Richard provided a summary of H.R. 3962 “to provide affordable, quality health care for all Americans and reduce the growth in health care spending and for other purposes” and gave each committee member a written breakdown of the differences between cold, seasonal flu and H1N1 symptoms.

Ken Herman, City of Glendora: No report

Glendora Unified School District, Dr. Catherine Nichols: No report

Charter Oak Unified School District, Dr. Christine Smith: Dr. Smith reported that the district has concerns about the H1N1 virus, but so far they have not been hit with the flu. If an epidemic breaks out in the district, it will be difficult because there is only one nurse covering both school districts. Benchmark testing is ongoing and Don Davis and Jane Bach were elected to the school board.

Marilyn Grinsdale, Citrus College: Marilyn reported that both school board members were re-elected. The college is working with Senator Huff on an education summit scheduled for March 18, 2010.

Metropolitan Water District, Luis Cetina: No report

So. Calif. Edison, Donna Lee: Donna reported that energy bills should go down now that summer is over and people are not running their air conditioners. She warned everyone to beware of “energy vampires” or appliances that continue to consume energy even when they are turned off.

Bob Cruz, So, Calif. Gas: No report

Gene Morrill, Certified Auto: Gene reported on the new Freon, the requirement to check tire pressure on each car being serviced, the requirement for diesels to get smog checks and some current automotive scams.

Old Business:

New Business:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.
Minutes recorded by V. Thompsett