



APRIL 2014 LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE & BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY

LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE:

- Based on further review of Senator Beall's Mental Health Parity Budget Proposal, Members voted to recommend support.
- Co-sponsored by Senator Steinburg and Insurance Commissioner David Jones, the proposal ensures mental health care is provided through a new reinforcement process as opposed to the current complaint driven process in which claims are denied twice before appeals can be submitted. The proposal requires private health insurers to submit documented evidence to prove they are complying with the law and thus increases transparency. The Act includes implementation of the federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 and the Affordable Care Act in California.
- Anna Ko of Assembly Member Gordon's Office reviewed and requested support of the following legislation:
 - AB 1970 Community Investment and Innovation Program – makes cap-and-trade funds available to local governments through competitive grants to implement innovative GHG emissions reduction projects. Supporters of the bill include Santa Clara County, San Mateo County, League of California Cities. Members voted to recommend support.
 - AB 2516 Planning for Sea Level Rise Database - directs the Natural Resources Agency to create a database on their website of projects including studies, modeling, mapping, cost-benefit analysis, vulnerability assessments, adaptation projects as well as statuses and updates of Local Coastal Programs (LCPs). The database would reveal what cities, counties, entities that manage granted public trust lands, entities that manage major infrastructure (i.e. airports, roads, bridges, water and power facilities) and regions throughout the state have done to address and respond to sea level rise. The purpose of the database is to: 1) provide an educational tool for state agencies to engage the public; 2) allow coastal zone management agencies and other involved state entities to coordinate and continue a discussion of sea level rise preparedness; 3) allow the state to determine which regions of the state are addressing sea level rise and where there are gaps; 4) provide forum to share tools to address sea level rise. Members voted to recommend support.

- AB 1990 Community Food Promotion and Safety Act – defines “community food producers” and authorizes community food producers to sell produce to the public, upon complying with a variety of health/safety regulations. Members expressed concerns for cost and lack of support to build a level of bureaucracy when there is no apparent need for it. Some members expressed support: the bill provides a safe environment for community food producers to sell their produce and it provides protection for the public. There was minimal support to recommend the bill.
- AB 1690 Low and Very Low-Income Housing: Mixed Use – allows communities to plan for accommodating low-and very low-income housing on sites designated for mixed-uses and are less likely to be isolated from jobs and services. Members voted to recommend support.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

- **James Williams, SCC Deputy Executive, reviewed the Housing JPA Working Group’s proposal and requested feedback from Board Members.**
 - An informal working group—including members from the County, City of San José, County Housing Authority, City Managers, Cities Association, Santa Clara Valley Water District, and Valley Transportation Authority—has been exploring the potential creation of a countywide housing JPA. They are now at a stage where input from a larger group of relevant stakeholders is required.
 - The proposed JPA would focus on providing affordable housing for the region, e.g. coordinate resources, pursue state & federal funding opportunities, and function as a vehicle to implement and operate a RHNA sub-region for Santa Clara County.
 - There have been other successful models of housing JPA’s e.g. San Mateo County, Sacramento, San Diego.
 - The SCC BOS had the opportunity to provide feedback in March; they strongly supported the formation of a JPA, a regional focus on affordable housing, but don’t believe the county should be in a leadership role on this; the county’s focus should be on homelessness and support services.
 - Feedback from the Board included:
 - The City of Santa Clara would not be interested in participating unless there is access to funds; the county took much of the affordable housing funds from cities through the dissolution of RDA’s.
 - The county should consider fulfilling a leadership role in the JPA; the county deals with the impacts, e.g. jails becoming “housing.”
 - Support the JPA pursuing state and federal funding opportunities since there is a value in pursuing money together versus pursuing money individually.
 - It will allow us to pursue bigger projects.

- Support including focus on homelessness since it is a regional issue.
 - RHNA sub-region may be a separate issue.
 - Will not be able to regionalize housing unless we regionalize RHNA.
 - Economies of Scale can lead to housing wins.
 - What will the role of San Jose be? Will they receive most funding?
 - Will this increase efficiency? Can we quantify the increased efficiency?
 - What are the best ways to use CDBG funds?
 - It's important to not overlook the relationships developed between jurisdictions and their community partners.
 - How about a Housing Regional Council instead of a JPA that functions as an intergovernmental entity?
 - Cities tend to compete against each other regarding housing; the JPA would provide a mechanism that encourages collaboration and a focus on a regional strategy
 - It would be helpful to review and evaluate a list of current available affordable housing resources.
- The proposed JPA will not have land-use authority and will only have authority as defined in the agreement.
- Members appreciated the opportunity to provide feedback and welcomed further updates and collaboration during the development and progress of discussions regarding a Housing JPA or regional entity.
- **Rachel Gibson of Santa Clara Valley Water District provided an update on water supply and conservation.**
 - SCVWD is responsible for providing Silicon Valley with safe, clean water for a healthy life, environment, and economy.
 - Service is provided to 2 million people, 15 cities, 4,700 direct well owners, and 13 water retailers.
 - Fifty-five percent of our SCC's water supply is provided through imported water from: Shasta Lake, Lake Oroville, Hetch Hetchy, and the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.
 - Due to current drought, we are experiencing a stage 3/severe state of water supply; 200,000 – 250,000 AF of ground water storage is projected for year-end; thus 20% reduction of water usage is recommended.
 - SCVWD is providing water conservation grants for 2014 – this is new for this year, e.g. gray water rebate program.
 - A number of potential conservation programs include residential, landscape, commercial/industrial, agricultural, or outreach/education.
 - In addition to promotion of conservation programs, SCVWD is also focusing on increasing self-reliance through recycling water/advanced purification methods, rebuilding infrastructure, e.g. Anderson Reservoir rehabilitation to begin 2016, and water quality protection.

- Potentially, we could reach a stage 4/critical level of water supply if it does not rain for the rest of the season; however, an el niño is currently predicted for the upcoming Fall season of 2014 and this may help alleviate the current water shortage.
- Typically, any jurisdictions that provide, directly or indirectly, water to 3,000 or more customers (or more than 3,000 AF annually) must have an urban water management plan.
- What is cities' role in this? 1) be a model citizen and 2) work closely with water retailers or SCVWD on messaging so as not to confuse residents.
- San Jose Water Company is the only retailer in the region that is supervised by the Public Utilities Commission.
- The cities of Morgan Hill and Mountain View have declared Level 1 Water Shortages and have move forward with the implementation of conservation programs.
- The City of Saratoga is currently considering a landscape ordinance as a conservation program.
- **LAC Chair Peter Leroe-Muñoz presented the committee's recommendations:**
 - Support Senator Beall's Mental Health Parity Budget Proposal.
 - Support Assembly Member Gordon's:
 - AB 1970 Community Investment and Innovation Program
 - AB 2516 Planning for Sea Level Rise Database
 - AB 1690 Low- and Very Low-Income Housing: Mixed Use
 - Cities Association Board unanimously endorsed recommendation.
- **CSC Appointee Report:** Ronit Bryant provided report on ABAG Hazardous Waste Management Facility Allocation Committee
 - The region is responsible for disposing of its own hazardous waste and siting treatment facilities.
 - Currently, hazardous waste is being shipped out of the area or to Southern California.
 - Instead of focusing on ways of disposing of waste, the committee shifted its focus to finding ways to not produce hazardous waste by introducing the Bay Area Green Business Program.
 - The Bay Area Green Business Program focuses on source reduction through:
 - Researching innovative universal waste processing
 - Promoting and monitoring sustainable purchasing efforts
 - Tracking Extended Producer Responsibility efforts
 - Tracking California Green Chemistry efforts
 - This program has been so successful that it has been implemented statewide (1 year ago).
 - 2,300 businesses have been certified as Green Business Programs.
- **City Managers' Report:** Steve Rymer, Morgan Hill City Manager, provided overview of city managers' discussion on SVRIA and the SVRCS system to be implemented across the region and guarantees inoperability across agencies and jurisdictions. The new system will cost between \$30-35 million excluding cost of radios and is much less than the original proposal.

Currently, membership is working on finalizing a financing strategy and a cost allocation plan. The proposal will eventually come before all city councils for review and approval and then back to the SVRIA Board for final approval. The final design and build-out of the system will take 2-5 years. Currently, Sunnyvale and Santa Clara are up and running on the new system and have verified the effectiveness and high-quality of transmissions between jurisdictions.

- **Legislation Report:** Betsy Shotwell of San Jose provided report on the current 2013-2014 legislative session. Legislation must pass out of its house of origin by end of May. The legislative session ends August 30th. Regarding legislation CASC has supported, SB 1262 (Correa) will be heard in committee on April 21st and AB 1449's committee hearing date has been rescheduled. HR 29 (Gomez) sets a bad precedence and will likely influence future legislation that will affect a city's ability to utilize contract services. Measures addressing the 2/3 vote requirement will likely not get the required votes to be on the ballot due to loss of three Senators in the Senate.

Joys and Challenges:

- Jim Griffith shared that Google has officially recognized Sunnyvale as the center of Silicon Valley according to its maps application.
- Joe Pirzynski announced ABAG General Assembly, Thursday, April 17th, 8:30 am – 2:30 pm, Oakland Marriot Center.

Announcements:

- Meeting with Senator Hill re: AB 109 Realignment – Thursday, April 17, 11:00 am, 1528 South El Camino Real, Suite 303, San Mateo, CA.
- Housing Trust Silicon Valley Investor Briefing, April 23, 11:30 am – 1 pm, Santa Clara Convention Center.
- Cities Association General Membership Meeting, Thursday, May 8th, 5 – 8:30 pm, Santa Clara Convention Center; to address Levi's Stadium and its impact on the region; in partnership with the City of Santa Clara and VTA.
- Save the Date: Regional Economic Forum, Wednesday, May 28th, 7:15 am – 12 pm, Computer History Museum, Mountain View.