



## **JULY 2014 LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE & BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY**

### **LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE:**

- Upon review, the LAC voted to make the following recommendations on AB 2280 (Alejo) and AB 2126 (Bonta)
- Support AB 2280 (Alejo) Community Revitalization and Investment Authorities.
  - AB 2280 allows certain “disadvantaged” areas of California to create a new entity called a Community Revitalization Investment Authority (CRIA). A CRIA would invest property tax increment of consenting local agencies (other than schools) and other available funding to improve conditions leading to increased employment opportunities, to reduce high crime rates, to repair deteriorating and inadequate infrastructure, to clean up brownfields and to promote affordable housing.
  - Recommendation to support AB 2280 passed unanimously.
  - Concerns about effects on neighboring jurisdictions through the use of tax increments were noted.
- Oppose AB 2126 (Bonta) Meyers-Milias-Brown Act: Mediation.
  - AB 2126 proposes changes to the Meyers-Milas-Brown Act (MMBA) with respect to mediation, impasse procedures, and fact finding.
  - AB 2126 would allow either party in collective bargaining between a public agency and its recognized employee organization to request mediation after providing the other party with a written declaration of impasse and requires the parties to agree on a mediator within 5 days of a request for mediation. If the parties fail to agree upon the selection of a mediator within 5 days, the bill requires PERB to appoint a mediator. The bill also exempts from the requirement for mediation, as specified, those public agencies that have a binding arbitration process.
  - AB 2126 provides, with respect to fact finding procedures, that the employee organization’s request for fact finding is not limited to impasse negotiation over an MOU or a successor MOU, and may include differences that arise from any dispute over any matter within the scope of representation. The bill also provides more flexibility to factfinders in weighing the criteria for making their findings and

- recommendations and allows an employee organization to voluntarily waive, in writing, its procedural right to request a fact finding panel.
  - LAC Members voted unanimously to oppose AB 2126.
- Update on AB 2145 includes removal of the opt-in requirement to CCA's; however new amendments would require CCA's to not exceed the boundaries of more than three contiguous counties and CCA's must provide a 5-year projection of electric supply rates, which would likely make CCA's unsuccessful.
- It was recommended to resubmit the opposition letter to AB 2145 approved in June 2014.

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:**

- **Daniel Raskey of NASA Ames Research provided a presentation on planetary sustainability.**
  - Although NASA is usually associated with space, they are also committed to advancing technology and innovations that will help solve the challenges that are facing Earth.
  - Due to evidence of global industrialization, climate change, sea level rise, NASA has adopted a vision: *“a world in which all people have access to abundant water, food, energy, and protection from severe storms and climate change impacts; healthy and sustainable worldwide economic growth from renewable products and resources; a multi-planetary society, where the assets of the solar system are available to the people of Earth.”*
  - There are a number of organizations that develop energy efficient technologies; local agencies can use the technologies to survive and achieve sustainability, e.g. BloomEnergy (efficient energy generators), Intelligence Irrigation (the use of atmospheric nitrogen as a form of irrigation), Biovessel (liquid fertilizer), NEX (NASA Earth Exchange - a portal for Earth Science data).
  - NASA's sustainability base is an exemplary government building that was built using NASA's innovations originally designed for space travel; the building generates twice the energy it uses, uses 80% less water than other buildings (through reclamation and the use of a gray water system), uses a geothermal cooling/heating system instead of air conditioning, and only costs 6% more to build. It leaves no footprint.
  - The building can be replicated for civic centers, community centers, etc.,
  - Board Members are interested to tour the sustainability base at a future time; tour to be coordinated.
  - NASA has collaborated with Sustainable Silicon Valley and will be hosting the Water Energy Smart Technology (WEST) Summit in Fall of 2014.
  - Recent partnerships include a sea level rise workshop with Assembly Member Rich Gordon, which occurred in San Mateo County and one to take place in Santa Clara County in fall 2014; and a recent CO2 workshop addressing how to turn it into a profitable raw material.

- NASA Ames Research Center has a Space Act Agreement with the State of California to explore sustainability technologies for the mutual interest of NASA and the state.
- **Matt Mahood of SJ/SV Chamber and Mayor Chuck Reed of San Jose presented an update on the Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI).** REDI proposes to create a separate entity dedicated to business expansion, retention, and regional promotion to ensure regional economic competitiveness on behalf of the greater Silicon Valley. The initiative will be similar to an economic development corporation but under the direction and supervision of the SJSV Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. A Steering Committee made up of key stakeholders and initiative funders will oversee the strategy implementation. The initiative will be located within the SJSV Chamber offices. Similar models exist in Austin, Texas, and St. Louis, Missouri. Supporters and contributors include the City of San Jose, City of Morgan Hill, Santa Clara County, Kaiser Permanente, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, and Silicon Valley Leadership Group. Funds raised to date are \$412,000. Ninety to 85% of funding to come from the private sector. Outreach to stakeholders to continue. Mayor Chuck Reed of San Jose emphasized the importance of taking an “offense” strategy and focusing on growing our companies and jobs instead of simply defending our jobs. REDI will allow our region to healthily compete with other thriving regions that successfully strive to emulate the Silicon Valley. We can do better through change and innovation. The Board of Directors voted to endorse the REDI (with one abstention from the City of Sunnyvale) and recommended for cities to consider supporting/funding the initiative individually.
- **Scott Strickland, Chief of Staff of SCC BOS Cindy Chavez, provided an update on the county’s recent action regarding a RHNA sub-region.**
  - SCC BOS Cindy Chavez has requested referral to direct county staff to work with cities on creating the needed affordable housing.
  - An ABAG sub region could be created for the next RHNA cycle.
  - The administration to consider any possible means to help affordable housing to be developed within the current RHNA cycle.
  - Whatever the proposed solution, cities would have the choice to opt in on a voluntary basis.
  - City Council members who serve with Cindy Chavez on both the County’s Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee (HCDAC) and on the Santa Clara County delegation to the ABAG Executive Committee have expressed interest in the County’s leadership on this subject. In addition, the Cities Association of Santa Clara County has also expressed interest.
- **Cities Association Board of Directors unanimously supported ratification of the organization’s compliance with SB 751 and amendment to the Brown Act requiring reporting of actions/votes by all members present.**

- Senate Bill 751, an amendment to the Ralph M. Brown Act, went into effect January 1, 2014 and requires the legislative body of a local agency to publicly report any action taken and the vote or abstention on that action of each member present. This new law seeks to prevent anonymous voting on legislative bodies and to provide the public with the ability to monitor the votes of public officials during the open and public sessions of meetings subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act.
  - According to SB 751, the Cities Association Board of Directors and its three standing committees are required to report the votes and abstentions of every member at each public meeting. The minutes of each meeting should list all “yes” and “no” votes and abstentions to reflect any actions taken. In addition, regarding City Selection Committee Meetings, the minutes should document each member’s vote when voting for appointees to local agencies to reflect actions taken by its voting members.
- **LAC Chair Peter Leroe-Muñoz presented the committee’s recommendations:**
    - Support AB 2280 (Alejo) Community Revitalization and Investment Authorities
    - Oppose AB 2126 (Bonta) Meyers-Milias Brown Act Mediation
    - Cities Association Board supported recommendation for AB 2280 with one opposition from City of Los Altos Hills.
    - Cities Association Board unanimously supported recommendation for AB 2126.

**CSC Appointee Report:** Jim Griffith, Chair of the Recycling Waste & Reduction Commission provided a report on recent activities. Report included: 1) Revised MOA between the sixteen agencies (15 cities and the county) has been approved and ensures stakeholders receive accurate and appropriate services; 2) SCC to pursue Pharmaceutical take-back Program; and 3) City of San Jose recently opened the Environmental Innovation Center. The EIC will provide laboratory, office, proto-type manufacturing and demonstration space for emerging clean technology companies. The LEED Platinum building will itself be a model of sustainability with solar PV panels installed throughout the project to generate all or most of the facility’s energy, a storm water mitigation system, a pervious sidewalk and LED street lighting.

**Joys and Challenges:**

- Emily Lo of Saratoga announced Saratoga’s new City Manager: James Lindsay.
- Jim Griffith of Sunnyvale announced the city’s ranking as #1 in the state and #19 in the county as the city with the largest economic recovery.
- Rod Sinks of Cupertino announced Cupertino’s work on its Climate Action Plan and pursuit of a CCA.
- Steve Tate of Morgan Hill announced the grand opening of its new Council Chambers.

- Jarrett Fishpaw of Los Altos announced the future opening of Safeway in Los Altos.

**Announcements:**

- SCU Markkula Ethics Center Public Sector Roundtable, Friday, August 1, 11:30 am.