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Economy & Efficiency Commission Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1999
ROOM 830, KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION

Editorial Note: Agenda sections may be taken out of order at the discretion of the chair. Any reordering of sections is reflected in the presentation of these minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER OF COMMISSION MEETING

With the presence of a quorum of commissioners, Chairman Abel called the Commission meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Abel asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, the following motion was Moved, Seconded and Adopted: The minutes of the September 9, 1999 Commission meeting be approved.

II. APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONER'S ABSENCES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

David A. Abel
Fred Balderrama
Hope J. Boonshaft
John Crowley
David W. Farrar
Jeanne L. Kennedy
Chun Lee
Tony Lucente
Royal F. Oakes
William J. Petak
Robert Philibosian
Julia E. Sylva
Tony Tortorice

COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED

Jonathan Fuhrman
Michael Jimenez

Carol Ojeda-Kimbrough
Roman Padilla
Marc A. Seidner
H. Randall Stoke

COMMISSIONERS NOT REQUESTING AN EXCUSE

Chris Hammond

QUALITY AND PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION LIAISON

Jaclyn Tilley Hill

It was Moved, Seconded and Adopted: **The Commission members noted above be excused.**

V. OLD BUSINESS

3. Constitutional Revision

Chairman Abel wanted to share the follow-up to the State's Constitutional Revision Commission's work on state and local finance. The Speaker's Commission for State and Local Finance, created in part as a result of the Economy and Efficiency Commission's efforts on this issue, began its work in January of this year and will conclude in December. The Commission will make recommendations that are likely to be approved at its October 28th meeting, in Sacramento.

There are three items at the top of the Commission's agenda. The first is the swapping of half of the ½ cent sales tax going to local government for an equivalent amount of property tax from the State. In other words, the proposed action would return a property tax base to local government that has not existed for the past 21 years. The second item is to take the future growth of the remaining ½ cent sales tax and put it into a pool that local governments can draw upon for infrastructure investment. The last item is to propose swapping the vehicle license tax monies that now go to local government for an equivalent amount of personal income tax dollars.

Commissioner Crowley asked if these monies were revenue neutral and projected into the future. Chairman Abel replied that from the beginning they would be revenue neutral. Also, the Commission's advisors believe that the property taxes will grow faster than the sales taxes. The Commission believes that the vehicle license tax revenues that local governments now receive could disappear. Actions of the Commission are focused on attempting to trade revenues that could disappear for a personal income tax draw that can be relied upon.

6. Real Asset Management

Chairman Abel asked Commissioners Lucente and Farrar, along with Quality and Productivity Co-Chair Hill, if they wished to comment on the progress of the County's Real Estate Task Force.

Commissioner Farrar explained that this Task Force has had a continuing series of meetings that have been held with the objective of assisting the County in managing its real estate. The County's current real asset holdings consist of approximately 55M square feet, or, in other words, 4% of the land area in Los Angeles County is owned or leased by Los Angeles County. During the August meeting of this Task Force representations were made by the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) with respect to the involvement of the Task Force in decisions regarding the budget surplus. During the September meeting a report was made stating that all the decisions had been made without the consideration of any Task Force recommendations. The CAO's representative resisted a suggestion that the CAO make a presentation as to how those decisions were made.

Commissioner Farrar went on to say that the Board of Supervisors had approved an Economy & Efficiency Commission recommendation to hire a consultant to advise it on real estate management. Commissioner Farrar further suggested that any future audits be accountable to this Commission, the Board of Supervisors, or the Real Estate Task Force.

Chairman Abel asked Commissioner Lucente if he had any further comments regarding this issue. Commissioner Lucente said that he thought that the Real Estate Task Force was responsible, in part, for the bureaucratic process that has developed. Having departments make presentations on the steps that were taken to manage the real estate assets would be time consuming. Commissioner Lucente went on to say that he thought that the Economy and Efficiency Commission should take additional steps to help resolve this situation. Additionally, he felt that it may be appropriate to notify the Board of Supervisors of actions taken on the issue.

Commissioner Hill stated that while she appreciated the frustrations of Commissioner Farrar, she also felt that there is a need to recognize successes. Now that the Chief Administrative Office has successfully implemented available technology, a database exists that identifies each parcel in the County. An abundance of information and data is now available. She further commented that she would advise the Commission to explore Commissioner Farrar's recommendation that the Board of Supervisors be made aware of the obstacles perceived to exist by the Commission.

IV. INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

At this point, upon the arrival of the latest appointee to the Commission, Chairman Abel introduced Commissioner Royal F. Oakes, Esq.

V. OLD BUSINESS (Continued)

6. Real Asset Management (Continued)

Chairman Abel, addressing Commissioners Lucente and Farrar, stated that he felt that it was appropriate for the Commission to take up the asset management issue again. He suggested that, as was done with some of the Commission's other studies, the Board of Supervisors should be asked to fund additional work. This action is not directed as much to the allocation of funds, but, more importantly, to make it clear that further exploration of this issue has the Board's support. Chairman Abel suggested that Commissioners Lucente and Farrar report at the November meeting as to what type of study should be undertaken.

VI. PRESENTATION (a)

Chairman Abel introduced the first presentation by suggesting that the topic is of great interest to the Commission.

[Mr. David Michaelson, Office of County Counsel and Mr. Tyler McCauley, Assistant Auditor-Controller](#)
[Topic: Background and Implementation of County Living Wage Guidelines for Los Angeles County](#)

Mr. Michaelson made general comments introducing the Living Wage Program. Mr. McCauley continued by explaining that his office had been given the responsibility of determining an appropriate living wage for the County and the problems and issues associated with this assignment. Mr. Michaelson concluded with a more detailed discussion and by outlining plans to implement the Living Wage Program.

VI. PRESENTATION (b)

Chairman Abel welcomed Mr. Wayne Doss, Bureau Director, Family Support Services, Office of the District Attorney.

[Mr. Wayne Doss, Bureau Director, Family Support Services, Office of the District Attorney and Mr. Dennis Snapp, Deputy, District Attorney.](#)
[Topic: Creation of a new County Department of Child Support Services](#)

Mr. Doss introduced Mr. Snapp, a Deputy District Attorney who has done legislative work on this issue, to assist him on this presentation. Mr. Doss commented on the child support legislation recently signed by the Governor. This legislation will change the way the Federally mandated Child Support Enforcement Program is operated in California. Both he and Mr. Snapp explained this legislation and discussed the transition plans for the County.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

None

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion from the floor, Chairman Abel adjourned the meeting at 12:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted.



Bruce J. Staniforth
Executive Director

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