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## **Economy & Efficiency Commission**

# **Meeting Minutes**

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### **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1998

ROOM 830, KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

With the presence of a quorum Chairman Abel called the meeting of the full Commission to order at 10:10 A.M.

#### **II. ATTENDANCE**

##### **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

David A. Abel  
Richards D. Barger  
Hope J. Boonsaft  
Benjamin F. Breslauer  
Gunther Buerk  
John Crowley  
David W. Farrar  
Jonathan Fuhrman  
Michael A. Jimenez  
Chun Lee  
Carole Ojeda-Kimbrough  
William J. Petak  
H. Randall Stoke  
Julia E. Sylva  
Tony Tortorice

##### **COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED**

Fred Balderrama  
Christopher W. Hammond  
Tony Lucente  
Roman Padilla  
Robert Philiposian  
Marc A. Seidner

##### **COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

None

Moved, Seconded and Approved: The Commission members noted above be excused.

### III. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Moved, Seconded and Approved: The minutes of the March 4, 1998 Commission Meeting be approved as submitted.

### IV. INTRODUCTION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Abel stated that each commissioner should have received a copy of the 1998 Synopsis of Economy and Efficiency Commission Reports.

Mr. John Wallace for Supervisor Knabe's office introduced himself.

### V. OLD BUSINESS

#### 3. Commission Web Page

Mr. Staniforth reported that the commission's redesigned web site was now online with a new web address of <http://eec.co.la.ca.us>. He added that staff will be looking over the next few months for ways to improve the site. A news release announcing the new site will be sent out to approximately 550 government research organizations, local press, etc. Mr. Staniforth stated that, in the future, as response volume increases, reports will be made to the Commission regarding suggestions and comments received from the site.

Commissioner Petak asked if the new web address prevents people from accessing the commission web site through the County's web site. Mr. Staniforth replied no, the commission's web site can still be accessed through Los Angeles County's web site under "Departments" and the County's site can be accessed from the commission's site by a link on our home page.

#### 4. Real Asset Management

Task Force Chairperson Farrar reported that he gave a report to the Local Government Services Commission (LGSC) on Tuesday, April 7th on the status of real asset management in the County. Those commissions involved in asset management feel this is an area where local government can and will work better. Task Force Chairperson Farrar stated that those involved should focus on gaining the support and advocacy of groups like the LGSC and others to support the recommendations made in asset management. These alliances could be of great value in bringing important issues and recommendations to the forefront.

Chairman Abel asked Task Force Chairperson Farrar to give a quick background and update of the real asset project. Task Force Chairperson Farrar stated that the EEC published a report in 1995 on the state of real asset management in the county. As a consequence of that report, the CAO, which is now in charge of real asset management, established a working group to focus on improving real asset management. This working group has retained an outside consultant who will be presenting a report to the Real Asset Oversight Committee. This Committee consists of representatives of several commissions, including the EEC, and will be meeting on April 16th to receive feedback and provide input. At the end of the month, the report will be presented to another working group, the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee includes department heads and deputies from each of the Supervisors. If the Executive Committee approves the report it should be put on the Board's agenda in May.

#### 1. Debt Collection Project

Task Force Chairperson Jimenez reported that the project is back on line and gave a brief description of the project and its process. The purpose of this project is to examine the County's debt collection process systems, determine why departments have outstanding revenues, and explore how to increase the collections owed to the county. This project which originally started in May 1997 evolved to a point that in October the project team realized the magnitude of the problem could be in an excess of a billion dollars. At this time it was determined that additional resources would be required to address the problem. As a result of this realization and a request of the Commission, on February 10th, the Board of Supervisors recognized the expanded scope of the project by approving an additional funding of \$100,000 and 5 months for completion. The task force met recently to discuss the direction of the project.

Task Force Chairperson Jimenez stated the Board of Supervisors requested the EEC present interim recommendations by April 10, 1998. These proposed recommendations are as follows:

1. Each Department must develop a write-off policy for uncollectible debt in conjunction with the Auditor Controller and Treasurer/Tax Collector. (By determining how much debt is collectible a process to collect debt can be established.)
2. Develop an amnesty program for county departments that enables debtors to negotiate unsecured

debt. (This will allow the County to collect a percentage of funds where no money would be collected previously.)

Task Force Chairperson Jimenez requested that, due to time constraints, that the Commission empower the task force to finalize and submit the recommendations to the Board if there is consensus within the task force.

**Moved that the Commission** allow the task force to approve interim recommendations and forward those recommendations to the Board, as long as there is consensus within the task force. **Motion unanimously approved.**

## VI. PRESENTATION -

[Mr. Peter Schrag](#)

[Topic: Structures of Inefficiencies](#)

[Mr. Richard Terzian, Chairman and](#)

[Ms. Jeannine English, Executive Director](#)

[Status of Little Hoover Commission Project](#)

[Topic: Finalization of the Commission Web Page](#)

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

## IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

## X. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion from the floor, Chairman Abel adjourned the meeting at 11:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.



Bruce J. Staniforth  
Executive Director

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