

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION

ROOM 163, HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / 500 WEST TEMPLE / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012 / 974-1491

Dr. Warren H. Schmidt, Chairperson  
Gloria Starr, Vice Chairperson

George E. Bodle  
Dr. Catherine G. Burke  
John D. Byork  
Margaret Paterson Carr  
Anne S. Collins  
Dorothy Avila Courtney  
Dr. Mario Di Giovanni  
Dr. Carolyn L. Ellner  
Jerry Epstein  
Milton G. Gordon  
Richard S. Gunther  
Mary Jane Kidd  
Leo A. Majich  
Lauro J. Neri  
Robert Ruchti, II  
Luis A. Ruiz, CLU  
George Shellenberger  
Bryan Walker

Burke Roche  
Executive Secretary  
John Campbell  
Staff Specialist

MINUTES

FULL COMMISSION MEETING

May 2, 1979

Members Present:

Warren H. Schmidt, Chairperson  
Gloria Starr, Vice-Chairperson  
George E. Bodle  
Catherine G. Burke  
John D. Byork  
Anne S. Collins  
Dorothy Avila Courtney  
Mario Di Giovanni  
Mary Jane Kidd  
Lauro J. Neri  
Luis A. Ruiz, CLU  
George Shellenberger  
Bryan Walker

Members Excused:

Margaret Paterson Carr  
Carolyn L. Ellner  
Jerry Epstein  
Milton G. Gordon  
Richard S. Gunther

Members Absent:

Leo A. Majich  
Robert Ruchti, II

Warren Schmidt called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M.

Approval of Minutes. On suggestion by Warren Schmidt, by common consent of commissioners present, the commission approved the minutes of the April 4 meeting and excused the absence of those listed as excused above.

Task Force on Government Structure. Catherine Burke reported that plans for the May 4 conference on "Challenge for the 1980's: Can We Govern Ourselves?" are on track and consistent with early estimates. The report has generated substantial interest in the community and among those who would be affected by its proposals, many of which are now being implemented. About 70 participants have registered, among them legislators and staff, representatives of the Executive Branch, County, City and Special District officials, business representatives, and representatives of community organizations.

Task Force on Proposition 13 and Task Force on Proposition A (contracting). John Campbell reported that the commission staff has been gathering information on contracting and attended meetings of County staff working on implementation of Proposition A. He reported that two projects are underway related to the effects of Proposition 13 - he and Margaret Carr have been in communication with Walter Garrison, General Manager and Chief Engineer of the County Sanitation Districts (see Minutes of March 7, 1979) regarding the proposed review of the Districts' management system; Wayne Tavetian has been researching library system alternatives and their financial implications.

Executive Committee. Warren Schmidt reported that the Executive Committee met prior to the full commission meeting and recommends the following:

1. That during the summer months full commission meetings be scheduled by call of the chairperson, and that the regular meeting schedule (first Wednesday of each month at 9:30 A.M.) resume in September. Task forces will continue to meet during the summer months.
2. That the commission approve the efforts of the Task Force on Proposition 13 to conduct a review of the management system of the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County and to seek additional support for that work.
3. That Margaret Carr and Warren Schmidt meet as soon as possible with Harry L. Hufford, CAO, to discuss commission status, work program, and budgetary needs.

The commission adopted the Executive Committee recommendations by common consent.

Presentation by Stephen J. Koonce, County Engineer. Mr. Koonce described the various functions of the Department of the County Engineer and Facilities. In the area of County facilities, he is responsible for meeting all the housing and real estate needs of County programs, including capital projects involving land acquisition, facility design and construction, as well as lease purchase and rentals. He reviewed the progress the County has made in reducing the costs of capital commitments and in reallocating its rental expenses to equity-type leasing. In the area of the County Engineer, the department is responsible for such countywide functions as aviation, mapping and surveying. In unincorporated areas and contract cities the Department provides building and safety services, civil engineering, geological services, and waste management services. The department also manages a unified system of 13 sewer districts within the County and 18 waterworks districts.

Mr. Koonce reviewed the effects of Proposition 13 on the department and some of its programs. In response to commissioners' questions, he reported that the departments' budgeted workforce had declined from 1450 to 990 positions since passage of Proposition 13 in June, 1978. The decline included layoff of 220 employees, most of which have since been restored through attrition. The declines have affected and continue to affect the County's ability to meet public needs; for example, projects at San Fernando Valley Courthouse, Juvenile Hall, and Olive View Hospital cannot be complete on schedule, if at all. Elapsed time involved in building permit processing increased from a Pre-13 average of 18-21 days to a Post-13 average of 11 weeks, and expenditures for overtime on permit processing increased. Delays were caused by the need to train new employees in plan-checking and permit processing functions, which had been severely reduced. At present, permit processing time is improving to levels approaching the Pre-13 average. Finally, the combination of Proposition 13 with civil service rules has impeded progress on affirmative action.