

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

MINUTES
FULL COMMISSION MEETING
March 7, 1979

Members Present

Warren H. Schmidt, Chairperson
Gloria Starr, Vice Chairperson
George E. Bodle
Catherine G. Burke
John D. Byork
Dorothy Avila Courtney
Mario Di Giovanni
Milton G. Gordon
Leo A. Majich
Lauro J. Neri
Bryan Walker

Members Excused

Margaret Carr
Anne Collins
Carolyn Ellner
Jerry Epstein
Richard Gunther
Mary Jane Kidd
Robert Ruchti
George Shellenberger

Member Absent

Luis Ruiz

Burke Roche
Executive Secretary
John Campbell
Staff Specialist
Maxlynn Larsen
Commission Secretary

Warren Schmidt called the meeting to order at 9:45 A.M.

Approval of Minutes. On motion of Leo Majich, seconded by Catherine Burke, the Commission approved, without change, the minutes of the February meeting.

Members Excused. On motion by John Byork, seconded by Lauro Neri, the Commission excused the absence of the members listed above. Burke Roche reported all had requested to be excused because of schedule conflict, being out of town, or illness.

Foundation for Effective Government. Warren Schmidt reported for Jerry Epstein, Chairperson of the Funding Development Committee. The Committee has retained Bernard Kamins as consultant to assist in the fund raising effort. He is an expert in public relations and fund raising. Kamins is preparing a plan of action. Foundation stationery is being ordered. Another meeting of the Committee is scheduled for next week.

On March 6 the Board of Supervisors adopted a motion supporting the Commission's efforts. See attachment.

E & E COMMISSION
Minutes
March 7, 1979

Report on Government Structure. Catherine Burke reported that on February 13 the Board approved printing of additional copies of the report as needed. The Task Force is continuing its contact with government officials and civic groups. John Campbell and she had met with the editorial board of the Los Angeles Times and she was preparing an article for the op-ed page. She was also contacting the national media.

A conference is tentatively scheduled for May 4 at which key officials and authorities will be invited to discuss further action. A. Alan Post has agreed to participate.

Catherine Burke suggested that it may be appropriate to ask the Foundation for Effective Government to help support the conference. After some discussion she moved that the Commission request the Foundation to help sponsor the conference if funds are available by that time. Seconded by Lauro Neri, the motion carried unanimously.

Report on Executive Committee Meeting. Warren Schmidt reported that the Executive Committee had met that morning at 8 A.M. to discuss Commission priorities. Catherine Burke has reported on activities associated with the report on Government Structure. Warren asked Lauro Neri to report for the Task Force on Private Contracting.

Lauro reported that the two task forces on Contracting and FIRM, which have been consolidated, met on February 21. Supervisor Schabarum attended the meeting. The task, it was agreed, is formidable.

Contracting can only save money if County employment is reduced. Attrition, rather than lay-off, is the most practical method of achieving a reduction. Dick Gunther has been appointed as the E & E representative on the Contract Services Advisory Committee, a Committee made up of representatives from business, the unions, and civic groups organized by the Board of Supervisors to oversee the contracting program. The immediate task of the Task Force is to prepare material on contracting problems and potential contracting areas for Dick to present at the first meeting of the Committee.

Warren Schmidt asked John Campbell to report on the Task Force on Proposition 13. John reported that the Task Force has not yet had its first meeting. Two surveys have been conducted on the effects of Proposition 13 - one by the State Department of Finance and one by the Los Angeles County Grand Jury. The staff is gathering other material for a meeting of the Task Force within the next two weeks.

E & E COMMISSION
Minutes
March 7, 1979

Presentation by Walter Garrison, Chief Engineer and General Manager, County Sanitation Districts. At 10:30 A.M. Mr. Garrison arrived and was introduced to the Commission by Warren Schmidt.

Mr. Garrison summarized the operations of the districts and its organization. See attachments.

There are 25 active districts serving 75 cities and unincorporated areas and a population of 4 million. The other major sanitation system, the Los Angeles City system, serves Los Angeles and five adjacent cities and a population of 3 million.

The districts provide both sewage and solid waste disposal. They operate 12 treatment plants which can provide replacement water safe for swimming. The district system has been in operation since 1927. Each district is governed by a Board of Directors, consisting of the mayors of the cities in the district and the County Supervisor, where unincorporated County territory is within the district. Each district has its own budget but the administrative and operating organization with 1200 employees is unified under the Chief Engineer. The operating budget is \$29 million annually. The construction budget is \$40 million.

Proposition 13 reduced the property tax revenues from \$32 million a year to \$9 million. Federal and state grants provide 87½ per cent of the construction budget. In the next three months the districts must formulate a plan for user charges to replace the lost property tax revenue. The plan must be approved by the Board of Directors by July 1 for application in fiscal year 1980-81. Mr. Garrison expects the fee per house to approximate \$20 a year.

He reported that Proposition 13 has hurt morale and impaired their recruitment program. The districts operate their own personnel system. They do not have civil service, but the growth of the unions and collective bargaining have limited their ability to discipline and discharge as freely as they would like.

During the course of Mr. Garrison's presentation and at the end Commission members asked questions. In response to the question whether user fees can replace property tax revenues, Mr. Garrison said the \$20 fee was based on full replacement of the former tax revenues.

Warren Schmidt thanked Mr. Garrison for his presentation. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 A.M.