



ISSUE & POLICY ROUNDTABLE

Thursday,
February 22nd
12:00pm

Chair
Jim Knight

THE CHAMBER'S FORUM FOR GOVERNMENTAL AND BUSINESS CONCERNS

UPCOMING EVENTS

February

28 - Business After
Hours
Timbers Farm
10 Winchester Canyon
Road
5:00 - 6:45pm

March

5 - Ambassadors
Meeting
Chamber
Conference Room
271 N. Fairview
Ave, Ste 104
12:00pm - 1:00pm

13 - Issue & Policy
Roundtable
Bermant Villages
Chamber Conference
Room
271 N. Fairview Ave,
Ste 104
12:00pm - 1:15pm

15 - Lemon Festival
Committee
Meeting
Chamber
Conference Room
271 N. Fairview
Ave, Ste 104
8:00am - 9:00am

21 - Executive
Board Meeting
Chamber
Conference Room
271 N. Fairview
Ave, Ste 104
12:00pm - 1:30pm

22 - Issue & Policy
Roundtable
Chamber Conference
Room
271 N. Fairview Ave,
Ste 104
12:00pm - 1:15pm

Water Management

The Santa Barbara County-wide Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) is being drafted with input from a broad range of Santa Barbara County stakeholders including agencies with water management responsibility, non-governmental organizations, and interested members of the public. The IRWMP will accomplish the following:

- Provide a comprehensive overview of regional water management
- Identify water projects and programs for future implementation
- Assist in securing State funding from propositions 50 and 84



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INTEREST ITEMS

ITEM 1: AB32 Implementation - Greenhouse Gas Emission Cap Guidelines

The details of AB 32 implementation will be worked out in the next several years in a multi-agency effort that includes both near-term and long term regulations. California's businesses could face significant cost exposure and regulatory risk. For example, many businesses in California will need to make investment decisions with regard to expansion, modernization, relocation, etc. This creates a great deal of regulatory uncertainty for these businesses because the requirements are not yet known.

Regulatory uncertainty might impact your company's business decisions, or result in regulatory delays or cost increases.

Should the Chamber support the AB32 Implementation Group's develop its policy positions and better focus the advocacy efforts?

ACTION TAKEN:

- APPROVED
 DISAPPROVED

ITEM 2: Employee Free Choice Act

Last week, Rep. George Miller (D-CA), chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, introduced the "Employee Free Choice Act" (H.R. 800, which we'll call the "card check" bill here). Below is an article from Congress Daily that outlines some key points of the bill and how it could affect your members.

The concept behind the bill is simple: unions want to be certified as the bargaining agents for workers once they get a majority of eligible employees to sign authorization cards. This system would replace secret ballot elections. The new process would be open-ended in terms of time, leaving unions as long as they need to collect signatures. That is, it would remain open until they win. There would seem to be endless

ways to get workers to sign cards for reasons other than wanting a union to represent them, from having close personal friends solicit workers to more heavy-handed tactics.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce opposes this bill and supports the current system of secret ballots as the best way to ensure that employees' wishes are met. Secret ballots have served this country well since its founding as a way to make important decisions. They allow the people affected to decide between competing options on the merits rather than in response to outside pressure. They also have the benefit of finality: when the issue is settled, it is done.

ACTION TAKEN:

- APPROVED
 DISAPPROVED

ACTION UPDATE

Time is running thin, and your help is needed. In a City Council meeting earlier this month, City Staff had been directed to initiate, at the earliest opportunity, a review of the General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan.

With all of the hard work, support, and time put into the General Plan process, from our members, and our community, we must follow up at this pinnacle moment. March 5, 2007 will hold the first meeting to introduce proposed changes to the General Plan. We need your aid at this meeting to ensure our voices are still heard and respected.

"The City Council has asked Planning Staff to prepare a report for the March 5, 2007 City Council meeting setting up a process for considering possible changes to the City's General Plan. This will be an open process in which members of the community and other interested parties will be encouraged to participate," stated Dan Singer.

The March 5, 2007 City Council meeting will begin at 6:00pm in the City Council Chamber. Please save this date and attend.



ISSUE & POLICY ROUNDTABLE

BOND FUNDS IN MOTION

Most of the complainers were from California's major urban areas, lamenting that their major congestion relief projects were being given short shrift in favor of those in suburban and rural communities -- and powerful urban politicians such as Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez of Los Angeles were doing more than complaining.

Even before the commission convened, Núñez summoned the commission's top staffer, John Barna, into his office for a private gripe session. Afterward, he and Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa told reporters that if they weren't satisfied with how the commission acted, the Legislature would intervene.

"We just want to make it perfectly clear," Núñez said. "The Assembly will not appropriate funds in the bonds, or in the budget, that do not adequately address California's traffic congestion problem."

Barna, Núñez said, agreed to reconsider Los Angeles' top-priority project, new lanes for highly congested Interstate 405, that had been left off the staff's list.

Excerpted from SacBee

Bond Fund Recap

On Friday, February 16th, the staff of the California Transportation Commission (CTC) recommended nearly \$200 million in funding to help widen a southern and northern section of Highway 101 in Santa Barbara County.

\$60 million would pay for the widening of the Santa Maria River Bridge to three lanes in each direction.

\$130 million would be used to widen a six-mile section of freeway between Mussel Shoals in Ventura County, and Casitas Pass Road in Carpinteria.

In order to use these state funds, both projects must be completed by 2012 according to Steve Vandenburg, deputy executive director for SBCAG. The CTC is scheduled to vote on the allocations at its February 28 meeting in Sacramento.

The \$151 million recommended by the CTC staff for the six-mile stretch in Carpinteria, is \$20 million less than what the staff of SBCAG had originally asked for. The shortfall will need to be made up at the local level.

Excerpted from the SBCounty Taxpayers Association

The RLA has kept a close eye on LA's recent lobbying of bond funds at CTC meetings, however the cause for concern seems moot. When asked, SBCAG and Lisa Rivas made comments that all the controversy regarding the CTC staff recommendations could end up helping us. If the CTC caves in to the pressure from Nunez and the Governor by adding more money to this round of authorizations, throwing in another twenty million more to our project to fully fund it would be no big deal.

"I just heard the CTC staff is working on a strategy to fund our missing \$20 million. Things are looking very good," said Rivas.

CHAMBER MIXER

WHO: Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce

WHEN: February 28th, 5:00pm - 6:45 pm

WHAT: Business After Hours Mixer -- great networking, entertainment, food and beverages.

WHERE: Timber's Farm 1030 Winchester Canyon Road

COST: Chamber Members - \$5 Non-Members - \$10

DESIGN REVIEW

FIXING THE CITY PLANNING PROCESS

Information from City to be released

LOCAL POLITICAL CALENDAR

March

5 - City Council Meeting
1:30pm & 6:00pm
Goleta City Hall
130 Cremona Drive, Ste. B

6 - Design Review Board
3:00pm
Goleta City Hall
130 Cremona Drive, Ste. B

IPR is the Chamber's forum for governmental and business concerns. The IPR committee will endeavor to study and take positions, when appropriate, on local regional and state issues that affect business and commerce in the Greater Goleta Valley.

The Chamber is the largest and most broadly based business representative in the Goleta Valley. It is the Chamber's role to promote a platform of economic health and vitality for the Goleta Valley on behalf of our members. IPR meetings and discussions are open to all Chamber members. When voting on an action item, all members present will be asked to vote. To be valid, votes must include a majority of the committee members listed below:

Kristen Amyx
Jean Blois
Mark Dispenza
Mark Ingalls
Jim Knight
Bill Macfadyen
Tim Mahoney
Bill Redding

THE GOLETA VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS A MEMBER OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:



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