

**CITY/COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES
March 9, 2017**

At 5:30 P.M. Chair Gordon called the Legislative Committee meeting to order in the 2nd Floor auditorium at the San Mateo Transit District Office.

Attendance sheet is attached.

Guests or Staff Attending:

Matt Robinson - Shaw/ Yoder/ Antwih Inc.
Sandy Wong, Jean Higaki, Matt Fabry - C/CAG Staff

1. Public comment on related items not on the agenda.

None

2. Approval of Minutes from March 9, 2017.

Member O'Connell moved and Aguirre seconded approval of the March 9, 2017 minutes. Motion passed 6-0. Member Mahanpour abstained.

3. Update from Shaw/ Yoder/ Antwih (SYA).

Matt Robinson, from Shaw/ Yoder/ Antwih provided an update from Sacramento.

2,495 bills were introduced in this first year of the two year session. About one quarter of them are spot bills.

Nothing has happened on the transportation funding bill so far. This month the Governor and the leadership in both houses appear to be more engaged and interested in passing a bill. It will probably need 2/3 vote which will be difficult to obtain from moderate delegates in other parts of the state. San Mateo county delegates are pretty solid. There is a target of April 6th to pass something before the legislative spring break.

It is anticipated that something in the housing realm will happen this session given the strong focus around the state. It may be funding affordable housing funding or relaxed regulations for affordable housing production.

There are a couple of bills for consideration by the Legislative Committee and the Board.

SCA 6 (Weiner) proposes to lower the voter threshold on local transportation taxes from 2/3 to

55 percent. This was a constitutional amendment introduced by Frazier last year that C/CAG supported. This would make it easier to pass another transportation sales tax measure (e.g. San Mateo Transportation Authority transportation sales tax). The 2% statewide cap on sales tax was raised two years ago to 2.5% for San Mateo County specifically for transportation.

ACA 4 (Aguilar-Curry) would lower the voter threshold from 2/3 to 55 percent for local infrastructure taxes for a wider range of infrastructure improvements across the board. This would also make it easier for local governments to add debt to the property tax roll (by lowering the threshold to 55 percent).

Process wise, it was proposed to have the Legislative Committee and Board approve of letters without respect to the addressee, since the addressee will change with respect to the committee that will be hearing the bill. Unless a bill changes substantially letters will be modified to the appropriate committee and will be sent at the appropriate date. The urgency process will still be followed when time does not permit a letter to be reviewed by the committee and board.

Matt Fabry asked if storm water was included in ACA 4. Matt Robinson will research this for the next meeting.

Member Carlton had concerns about lowering the threshold for very general and broad purposes.

Member Papan was concerned that the legislature would use this bill as an excuse to not fund important issues at the state level. It would also result in competing sales tax efforts with a limited cap.

Member O'Connell feels that this provides a tool for self-help.

Matt Robinson said that with a special tax provisions can be added to make exemptions. This would not hold true for a sales tax.

SB 231 (Hertzberg) would broaden the definition of sewers to include stormwater. This would allow make it easier to raise sewer rates. The previous four attempts were constitutional amendments that didn't make it to the finish line. There is some speculation that this will be challenged.

AB 1613 (Mullin) would allow SamTrans to adopt a sales tax that exceeds the 2% limit. This currently exists for the County Transportation Authority but allowing SamTrans to be the body that adopts the sales tax would provide an easier path according to SamTrans.

4. Review and recommend approval of the C/CAG legislative policies, priorities, positions, and legislative update (A position may be taken on any legislation, including legislation not previously identified).

Regarding SB 231 (Hertzberg) – Chair Gordon moved and Member Papan seconded recommending that the C/CAG Board send a letter of support for SB 231 (Hertzberg) that would broaden the definition of sewers to include stormwater.

Regarding SCA 6 (Weiner) - Matt Robinson will gather clarification with the authors office regarding specifics of this bill.

Regarding ACA 4 (Aguiar-Curry) – It was decided to present it to the Board but not recommend that an action by the Board be made at this time.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:25 P.M.

Legislative Committee 2017 Attendance Record

Agency	Name	Jan 12	Feb 9	March 9	April 13	May 11	June 8	July 13	August	Sept 14	Dec 8
Menlo Park	Catherine Carlton	x	x	x							
Millbrae	Gina Papan	x	x	x							
Portola Valley	Maryann Moise Derwin (C/CAG Vice Chair)	x	x	x							
Redwood City	Alicia Aguirre (C/CAG Chair)		x	x							
San Bruno	Irene O'Connell (Leg Vice Chair)	x	x	x							
Sounth San Francisco	Richard Garbarino		x								
Woodside	Deborah Gordon (Leg Chair)	x	x	x							
Foster City	Catherine Mahanpour	N/A	N/A	x							
Vacant											

 no meeting