



**FRESNO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

**Presiding:
Ruth Evans, Chair
Brian Domingos, Vice Chair**

Committee: Government Affairs Council
Chairperson: Ruth Evans
Vice-Chair: Brian Domingos
Meeting Date/Time: January 14, 2015
Meeting Place: Fresno Chamber of Commerce
Committee attendees: Bill Avakian, Lorraine Salazar, Cam Maloy, Al Smith, Larry Fortune, Ryan Jacobsen, Brian Domingos, Scott Miller, Lydia Zabrycki, John Taylor, Debbie Hunsaker, Randy Dhindsa
Committee absences: Sieg Fischer, Nick Amendola, Ruth Evans, Victoria Salisch, Austin Ewell
Staff: Rachel Eslick

CALL TO ORDER

- Vice-Chair Brian Domingos called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lorraine Salazar made a motion to approve the December 10th, 2014 minutes. The motion was seconded by Ryan Jacobsen and it passed unanimously.

ISSUE PRESENTATION

1. Recharge Fresno Update

Mark Standriff from the City of Fresno gave an update to the Prop 218 process in relation to the water rate hike and water infrastructure projects. Just over three weeks remain for rate-payers or property owners to send in protest letters to the new rates. As long as less than half of the protest ballots are returned (66,671), the city council can move forward with approving the new rates to improve Fresno's water system. As of the meeting date, Standriff said about 29,300 ballots had been returned. Some of those will not be eligible to be counted – for a variety of reasons including failing to sign the form, duplications, no form, etc. He went on to explain the new state laws that prohibit cities from continuing to draw down the water table and what will happen if Fresno does not comply. The City has to have a plan in place by 2017 and it must be adopted by 2020. If the state is not satisfied with Fresno's plan, the state will step in and manage the water for us, which is not ideal. The GAC will continue monitoring the Prop

218 process and the Fresno Chamber will continue promoting its support of raising rates for reliable and sustainable water.

2. Proposed Legislation

Federal Fuel Tax for Highway Trust Fund – OPPOSE

Would raise the federal fuel tax for the Highway Trust Fund. The GAC previously supported funding for the Highway Trust Fund WITHOUT raising the fuel tax, so taking this position was a formality.

Lorraine Salazar made a motion to oppose this bill and Scott Miller seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

AB 52 (Gray) Public Accommodations: construction-related accessibility claims – SUPPORT

Would reduce damages assessed for ADA violations if the small business fixes the area of noncompliance within 180 days.

Ryan Jacobsen made a motion to support this bill and Lorraine Salazar seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

SB 67 (Galgiani) Disability access: statutory damages – SUPPORT

Would extend the period for correcting construction-related violations from 60 to 120 days and reduce a defendant's minimum statutory damage liability to \$1,000.

Lorraine Salazar made a motion to support and Debbie Hunsaker seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Staff informed the GAC that between the December and January GAC meetings, the GAC executive board voted to support H.R. 30, which would redefine full-time work as 40 hours per week instead of 30 hours per week for the purposes of the employer mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

3. 2014 Report Card Approval

Staff recommended approving the city and state report cards and recognizing the elected representatives who scored 90% or higher along with giving honorable mention certificate to those with a score above 75%.

Jane Metcalf from Assemblyman Jim Patterson's office asked for special consideration because Patterson was absent for three votes because his daughter was in labor. Report Card Criteria stipulates that an absent vote is not neutral; it counts against the overall score.

Larry Fortune made a motion to suspend the rules to openly discuss the criteria and how to handle the request. Debbie Hunsaker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There were concerns about bending the rules for one person, as well as concerns about being overly strict. In the end, it was agreeable to all parties to include a note about Patterson's score to account for why he missed votes when the Report Cards are published and distributed to media and the masses.

Lorraine Salazar made a motion to approve the report cards, giving awards to representatives with scores of 90% or higher, recognize those with at least 75%, and include a note about Patterson's votes. Debbie Hunsaker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

CHAIRS REPORT

Brian Domingos mentioned Eggs & Issues with Sheriff Mims on Thursday, January 15th and the Report Card Reception on February 12th.

ADJOURNED

- Meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.