



**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:   | May 13, 2015   |
| Meeting Place:       | Fresno Chamber of Commerce   |
| Committee attendees: | Ruth Evans, Sieg Fischer, Bill Avakian, Brian Domingos, Cam Maloy , John Taylor, Debbie Hunsaker, Larry Fortune, Ryan Jacobsen, Lorraine Salazar, Austin Ewell, Victoria Salisch |
| Committee absences:  | Randy Dhindsa, Lydia Zabrycki, Nick Amendola, Al Smith, Scott Miller   |
| Staff:               | Rachel Eslick  |

**CALL TO ORDER**

- **Chair Ruth Evans called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.**

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

Nathan Alonzo with Senator Vidak's office told us his boss's immigration reform resolution, SJR 2, recently passed the Senate. Michael Rivera with Assemblyman Perea's office gave us some of the upcoming legislative and state budget deadlines. June 5<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for bills to pass the house of origin to keep moving and June 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for a budget to be passed. Chelsea Kemple from Assemblyman Patterson's office invited everyone to Patterson's community coffee on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*The April 8<sup>th</sup> minutes were accidentally skipped and will need to be approved at the June 10th meeting..*

**ISSUE PRESENTATION**

**Construction Management Act – Lee Brand, Fresno City Council**

Councilmember Lee Brand introduced his Construction Management Act to the GAC, marking his 17<sup>th</sup> initiative he's done in six-and-a-half years in office. He said it blends several other acts into a necessary document to both speed up project completion time and make sure it doesn't go over budget. Any public project over \$10 million dollars would fall under the purview of this act. It would prequalify contractors

who have the experience necessary to for the project, seek out project managers and hold them accountable, reduce overlap between various city departments, solicit input of a peer review board, and complete audits for each project to learn from successes and mistakes. Any change orders more than \$1 million would have to go to the council.

Debbie Hunsaker expressed hesitation with prequalifying contractors at the risk of “blackballing” contractors. Brand responded by saying that wasn’t the intent and he’s open to making modifications to the act if there are flaws identified after one year.

*Larry Fortune made a motion to support the Construction Management Act. Sieg Fischer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

## LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

### A. AB 590 (Dahle) Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

After the staff presentation, Bill Henson from Rio Bravo, a biomass plant in Fresno, spoke about the consequences of this bill failing. He said the entire state would suffer because without biomass plants, farmers would have no place to take their trees and may be forced to open burn, which is bad for the environment.

*Lorraine Salazar made a motion to support AB 590. John Taylor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously, with Cam Maloy abstaining.*

### B. AB 521 (Roth) Civil rights: disability access

### C. SB 406 (Jackson) Employment leave

### D. AB 359 (Gonzalez) Grocery Workers

### E. AB 465 (Hernandez) Contracts against public policy

### F. ABA 4 (Frazier) Local government transportation projects

### G. SCA 5 (Hancock) Local government: special taxes: voter approval

### H. SB 654 (De Leon) Hazardous waste: facilities permitting

### I. AB 1357 (Bloom) Children and Family Health Promotion Program

### J. AB 708 (Jones Sawyer) Consumer products: content information

### K. AB 19 (Chang) Governor’s office of business and economic development

### L. AB 866 (Garcia) Economic development: small business

*Ryan Jacobsen made a motion to approve B-L. Larry Fortune seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

## PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Jed Soberal asked for a moment to talk about a project he’s working on in conjunction with City of Fresno and the Fresno Chamber. Fab5 is named for a group of sixth graders who came up with the idea of creating a cell phone application that would monitor customer water use. They’re in the fundraising state currently and are soliciting donations to reach \$100,000, the necessary amount to build and launch the technology. The City is allowing water use data to be accessed “honey potted” by Bitwise to make it possible, something that’s never been done before – anywhere. The goal is to get people using the free app and reduce their usage because they can easily monitor how much water they’re using day by day. People can also easily detect leaks and address them before they become expensive problems. There were many questions from GAC members about patents, proprietary information, charging money for the app, cost of maintenance, etc. Lorraine Salazar suggested Jed come back for the Fresno Chamber board meeting May 20<sup>th</sup> to pitch the idea again. Jed and the Fab5 sixth graders will be doing an elaborate pitch at the Fresno Chamber on May 20<sup>th</sup> from 11:30-1:00 as well.

## CHAIR’S REPORT

Ruth Evans announced a recently scheduled Eggs & Issues event on June 12<sup>th</sup> with Senator Berryhill and Assembly Minority Leader Kristin Olsen. She also encouraged people to buy their tables for the June 3<sup>rd</sup> State of the City event. Members of the GAC are attending Cal Chamber's Leg Day on May 27<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento.

#### **ADJOURN**

- **Meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.**