



**FRESNO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COUNCIL**

**MEETING AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2015
12:00 P.M.**

**PRESIDING
RUTH EVANS, CHAIR
BRIAN DOMINGOS, VICE CHAIR**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

II. Legislative Updates

III. Approval of Minutes for April 8 and May 13 meetings

IV. Issue Presentations

- | | | |
|----|--|-------------|
| A. | TPA/TPP – Jennings Imel, U.S. Chamber of Commerce | INFORMATION |
| B. | Export/Import Bank – Jennings Imel, U.S. Chamber of Commerce | ACTION |

V. Legislative Items

- | | | |
|----|---|--------|
| A. | AB 1490 (Rendon) Oil and gas: well stimulation treatments: seismic act. | ACTION |
| B. | AJR 14 (Chu) Export-Import Bank of the United States reauthorization | ACTION |
| C. | AB 323 (Olsen) CEQA: exemption: roadway improvement | ACTION |
| D. | AB 35 (Chiu) Income taxes: credits: low-income housing: allocation | ACTION |

VI. Issue Tracking Update

Chair's Report – Ruth Evans

*Eggs & Issues June 12th, 7:30 at Piccadilly Inn
State of the County September 29th*

Adjourn



**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:	April 8, 2015
Meeting Place:	Fresno Chamber of Commerce
Committee attendees:	Ruth Evans, Sieg Fischer, Bill Avakian, Brian Domingos, Lydia Zabrycki, Nick Amendola, John Taylor, Debbie Hunsaker, Al Smith, Larry Fortune, Ryan Jacobsen, Scott Miller
Committee absences:	Cam Maloy, Lorraine Salazar, Austin Ewell, Randy Dhindsa, Victoria Salisch
Staff:	Rachel Eslick

CALL TO ORDER

- **Chair Ruth Evans called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.**

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Christina Hall of Congressman Tom McClintock's office spoke about HR 1668, which she would present during the legislative portion of the meeting. Raj Rakkar of Assemblyman Henry Perea's office also had proposed bills to discuss, but would bring them up later in the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Debbie Hunsaker made a motion to approve the March 13th minutes. Brian Domingos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ISSUE PRESENTATION

Development Code

Dan Zack from Fresno's Planning and Development Department presented a synopsis of the newly released Development Code. The current code was adopted in 1962, so the new version is a complete overhaul and attempts to streamline redundant information, omit outdated language and reflect the principals of the recently adopted General Plan. Zack said staff had dozens of meetings with private developers and community members to write this draft, which has a simpler, more user-friendly layout. The public review period is 60 days. The deadline to submit comments is June 1, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. Zack would like to work with the Fresno Chamber as it reviews the code to help answer questions and address concerns.

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

- A. **AB 543 (Quirk) Proposition 65: exposure**
Larry Fortune made a motion to support this bill. Brian Domingos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- B. **AB 588 (Grove) Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004**
Brian Domingos made a motion to support this bill. Larry Fortune seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- C. **AB 1038 (Jones) Workplace Flexibility Act of 2015**
Ryan Jacobsen made a motion to support this bill. Brian Domingos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- D. **AB 1468 (Baker) Civil Rights: disability access**
Staff was directed to write a letter addressing all the proposed legislation to curb lawsuit abuse and send it to committees ASAP.
Larry Fortune made a motion to support this bill. Debbie Hunsaker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- E. **AB 1470 (Alejo) Working hours: overtime**
Several council members requested further clarification on this bill because the available language was ambiguous. Details were emailed to the GAC which state the bill attempts to create a similar program as federal law which presumes that highly compensated employees earning at least \$100,000 are properly classified as exempt employees. Employees doing manual labor or other specified duties would not qualify.
Larry Fortune made a motion to support this bill. Nick Amendola seconded the motion and it passed 7-3.
- F. **AB 463 (Chiu) Pharmaceutical Cost Transparency Act of 2015**
Scott Shimamoto, Area Pharmacy Director for Kaiser Permanente presented this bill for support. He said it would shine a light on what's driving the price of prescription drugs and create public discussion. Further, he said government grants are being used to produce drugs, and the public deserves to know how that money is being spent. One particular drug that's receiving the most attention is Sovaldi, which treats Hepatitis C. Each pill is \$1,000. A full treatment costs \$84,000.
Lydia Zabrycki made a motion to support this bill and Sieg Fischer seconded the motion. It passed with Ryan Jacobsen taking a neutral position.
- G. **HR 1668 (McClintock) Save Our Water Act**
Debbie Hunsaker made a motion to support this bill. Brian Domingos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- H. **SB 152 (Vidak) Personal income taxes: earned income credit**
Brian Domingos made a motion to support this bill. Al Smith seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- I. **AB 1265 (Perea) Public Private Partnership Sunset Extension**
Sieg Fischer made a motion to support this bill. Brian Domingos seconded the motion and it passed with Debbie Hunsaker abstaining.
- J. **AB 1176 (Perea) California Clean Fuel Partnership**
Brian Domingos made a motion to support this bill and Lydia Zabrycki seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.
- K. **AB 857 (Perea) CA Clean Truck Act**
Sieg Fischer made a motion to support this bill. Brian Domingos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- L. **AB 722 (Perea) Small Business Access to Capital through Crowdfunding**
Scott Miller made a motion to support this bill. Sieg Fischer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

M. AB 99 (Perea) Mortgage Debt Forgiveness for Californians

Scott Miller made a motion to support this bill. Larry Fortune seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

N. AB 185 (Garcia) California New Markets Tax Credit

Debbie Hunsaker made a motion to support this bill. Brian Domingos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

O. AB 544 (Mullin) Income taxes: credits: research activities

Larry Fortune made a motion to support this bill. Sieg Fischer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

P. AB 546 (Leno) Health care coverage: rate review

Debbie Hunsaker made a motion to oppose this bill. Sieg Fischer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ISSUE TRACKING UPDATE

Staff provided an up-to-date list of issues the GAC has taken positions on so far in 2015 at the local, state and federal levels. As elected leaders vote on the issues, their votes are recorded on the sheets. The updated tracking sheets are also available online on the Fresno Chamber's website. The tracking sheets are included in every GAC packet to improve communication between the Chamber and the offices of our elected officials.

City positions – 3
County positions – 2
State positions – 24
Federal positions – 4

CHAIR'S REPORT

Ruth Evans commented on how wonderful the Eggs & Issues event was with District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp on April 3rd and encouraged attendance at future breakfasts. The Chamber golf tournament is on May 4th and the State of the City with Mayor Swearengen is June 3rd. She also asked the GAC to mark their calendars for May 27th to attend Cal Chamber's Leg Day in Sacramento.

ADJOURN

- **Meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m.**



**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 5th is the deadline for bills to pass the house of origin to keep moving and June 15th 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 15th.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The April 8th 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 17th 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

Q. 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.

R. AB 521 (Roth) Civil rights: disability access

S. SB 406 (Jackson) Employment leave

T. AB 359 (Gonzalez) Grocery Workers

U. AB 465 (Hernandez) Contracts against public policy

V. ABA 4 (Frazier) Local government transportation projects

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

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

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

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

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

BB. 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 20th to pitch the idea again. Jed and the Fab5 sixth graders will be doing an elaborate pitch at the Fresno Chamber on May 20th from 11:30-1:00 as well.

CHAIR’S REPORT

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

ADJOURN

- Meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

June 10, 2015

Trans Pacific Partnership and Trade Promotion Authority
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Presenter – Jennings Imel, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Source – U.S. Chamber of Commerce, United State Census Bureau

Summary – Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a trade deal that's being negotiated between the United States and 11 Asia-Pacific countries, including Japan, which would open free trade and expand export opportunities for U.S. companies. The countries involved represent 40% of the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and include: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam.

Japan is California's largest export market but currently isn't part of a free trade agreement. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, California exports totaled \$174 billion in 2014 and almonds were the fifth-largest commodity exported, with the vast majority coming straight out of the Central Valley. Increasing trade will have a positive multiplier effect; it's estimated that every \$1 billion in exports supports nearly 5,600 jobs because related fields like packaging, storing, and transporting all benefit.

Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) is a crucial procedural first step to passing TPP. TPA allows the President to share the trade agreement with Congress for an up or down vote, but no amendments can be made.

Support/Opposition – The GAC supports TPP and TPA. The Fresno Chamber has sent letters of support on both issues to the Valley Congressional Delegation (senators and congressman) as well as submitted an Op-Ed and Letter to the Editor. Congressmen Jim Costa, Devin Nunes, David Valadao and Tom McClintock and Senator Feinstein support TPA. Senator Barbara Boxer has not been supportive. Labor unions have oppose TPA and TPP because they say jobs will be lost overseas.

June 10, 2015

Export-Import Bank

Presenter – Jennings Imel, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Source – U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Summary – Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im) is a small federal agency that enables U.S. companies, including small and medium-sized businesses, to sell their products in global markets. In fiscal year 2013, Ex-Im provided financing or guarantees for \$37.4 billion in U.S. exports, thereby supporting more than 200,000 American jobs.

Ex-Im is especially important to U.S. small- and medium-sized businesses, which account for more than 85% of Ex-Im's transactions. In addition to these direct beneficiaries, tens of thousands of smaller companies that supply goods and services to large exporters also benefit from Ex-Im's activities.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) reports that 60 official export credit agencies (ECAs) worldwide have extended more than \$1 trillion in trade finance in recent years. Governments from Canada to China have shown no interest in shutting down their ECAs. On the contrary, German and French ECAs extended roughly two and a half times as much export financing -- measured as a share of GDP -- as Ex-Im did in 2012; Chinese and Indian ECAs provided almost three times and Korea's ECA ten times as much as Ex-Im.

Ex-Im loans expose the U.S. taxpayer to little risk as they are backed by the collateral of the goods being exported. Borrowers have defaulted on less than 2% of all loans backed by Ex-Im over the past eight decades, a default rate lower than commercial banks.

Some critics charge that Ex-Im picks winners and losers, skewing the marketplace. On the contrary, Ex-Im extends loans and guarantees to all applicants that meet its strict lending requirements but does so only when commercial credit is unavailable or when it is necessary to counteract below-market credit from foreign ECAs. Refusing to reauthorize Ex-Im would reduce the number of ECAs worldwide from 60 to 59, harming only U.S. exporters and the workers they employ.

Finally, Ex-Im helps reduce the federal deficit by hundreds of millions of dollars. Far from being a subsidy for corporations, Ex-Im charges fees for its services that have generated billions of dollars in revenue for the U.S. Treasury. In fiscal years 2012 and 2013, Ex-Im returned \$1.1 billion to the U.S. Treasury after covering all its expenses and transferred these funds to the U.S. Treasury's General Fund.

Background – Ex-Im bank has been in existence for 80 years. In 2014 and 2015, at least seven companies in Fresno used Ex-Im services: Meridian Nut Growers, Rio Del Mar Foods, Allenburg Trading LLC, Louis Dreyfus Corporation, Trinity Fruit Company, Westside Trading Company, and Tranpak. Dozens of companies in the Central Valley have used Ex-Im in the last eight years.

Support – U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Cal Chamber, House Speaker John Boehner, most democrats in Congress and many republicans are supportive of the Bank, however the issue is divisive among the parties.

Opposition – The group “Americans for Prosperity” is opposed. Some outspoken lawmakers include republican Congressman Jeb Hensarling and democrat Senator Elizabeth Warren.

Congressman Kevin McCarthy reportedly does not support the reauthorization because he believes the private sector will fill the void.

Status – In 2014, Congress authorized an extension, but the program will expire June 30, 2015 unless Congress takes action.

Staff Recommendation – Support

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

ITEM A

June 10, 2015

AB 1490 (Rendon) Oil and gas: well stimulation treatments: seismic activity
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Source – Cal Chamber, Leg Info

Summary – Prohibits well stimulation, and in some cases, wastewater disposal in limited areas that are seismically active or have recently had an earthquake.

Prohibits a well operator from conducting a well stimulation treatment following an occurrence of an earthquake of magnitude 2.0 or higher, as determined by the United States Geological Survey, on a well that is within a radius of an unspecified distance from the epicenter of the earthquake, as determined by the United States Geological Survey (USGS), until DOGGR completes an evaluation on whether there is a causal connection between the AB 1490 Page 2 well stimulation treatment and the earthquake and is satisfied that the well stimulation treatment does not create a heightened risk of seismic activity. Prohibits wastewater disposal wells and all well stimulation treatments, including hydraulic fracturing, within 10 miles of a recently active fault. Defines “recently active fault” as a fault that has been active in the past 200 years.

Background – USGS has found a connection between oil and gas activity and increased seismicity in Colorado, Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Ohio. On January 14, 2015, California Council on Science and Technology (CCST) released Volume I of the Independent Scientific Study required by SB 4 to the public. The key findings for Volume I were:

- a) Fracking practices in California appear to be very different from current practices used to produce unconventional reservoirs in, for example, North Dakota, and Texas.
- b) California fracked wells tend to be shallower, vertical, fracked in one location in the well only, and use much smaller amounts of water on average.
- c) Future expanded production in California is likely to be predominantly in the San Joaquin basin where it is concentrated now. It remains highly uncertain how much oil is available to be produced directly from the Monterey Shale.
- d) Hydraulic fracturing, rather than acidizing, has been used much more frequently both onshore and offshore.
- e) Available data indicate approximately 150 frack jobs occur onshore and about one offshore per month.
- f) Over the last decade, about 20% of California’s oil production has been from fracked wells.

Volume II, which will specifically address direct and indirect seismic impacts, is expected to be released by July 1, 2015. CCST did release a similar report commissioned by the Bureau of Land Management. That study stated, “Produced water disposal in dedicated injection wells (Class II wells according to EPA’s regulation for underground injection) presents the possibility of triggering earthquakes.” In addition, it also stated: There are no published reports of induced seismicity caused by wastewater disposal related to oil and gas operations in California, and at present the seismic hazard posed by wastewater injection is likely to be low. However, possible correlations between seismicity and wastewater injection in California have not yet been studied in detail. Injection of much larger volumes of produced water from increased WST (well stimulation treatment) activity and the subsequent increase in oil and gas production could increase the hazard, particularly in areas of high, naturally occurring seismicity.

Support – A number of environmental groups, including Center for Biological Diversity, Sierra Club California and The Wildlands Conservancy support this bill.

Opposition – Associated Builders and Contractors of California, Cal Chamber and Western States Petroleum Association are among the organizations opposed.

Status – Assembly Appropriations

Staff Recommendation – Oppose

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

ITEM B

June 10, 2015

AJR 14 (Chu) Export-Import Bank of the United States reauthorization

Source – Cal Chamber, Leg Info

Summary – Memorializes the Legislature's desire for the United States (U.S.) Congress to support legislation reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank).

The Ex-Im Bank is the official export credit agency of the U.S. and exists for the purposes of financing and insuring foreign purchases of U.S. goods for customers unable or unwilling to accept the credit risk. The Ex-Im Bank has supported more than \$400 billion in U.S. exports in the past 70 years and helps to cover critical trade finance gaps by providing loan guarantees, export credit insurance, and direct loans for U.S. exports in developing markets where commercial bank financing is unavailable or insufficient. For federal fiscal year (FFY) 2014, the Ex-Im Bank provided \$20.5 billion in loan guarantees which leveraged \$27.5 billion in exports while supporting 164,000 U.S. jobs. The Ex-Im Bank is a self-sustaining agency, which operates at no cost to the taxpayer and over the last three fiscal years has generated more than \$3 billion in fees from its foreign customers which were deposited in the U.S. Treasury to reduce the U.S. deficit and indebtedness.

Over the past five years, the Ex-Im Bank has assisted more than 967 California companies to export their products. Nearly 200 of those companies are owned by women or minorities and over 700 are small businesses. These companies export their products and services around the globe totaling more than \$21 billion in sales. Fifty-two of the 53 congressional districts in California had companies benefit from the Ex-Im Bank loans.

Background – The Ex-Im Bank is a wholly owned U.S. government corporation, which was established by the U.S. Congress to provide market-oriented public services and to produce revenues to meet its expenditures. The Ex-Im Bank provides a variety of financial and insurance products that are designed to fill gaps in private export financing. Its charter was last extended through a FFY 2015 continuing resolution which expires June 30, 2015.

The Ex-Im Bank operates at no cost to American taxpayers and over the past two decades the Bank has generated nearly \$7 billion more than the cost of its operations. In the FFY 2014, the Ex-Im Bank approved \$20.5 billion in financial authorizations, which supported an estimated \$27.5 billion in export sales and approximately 164,000 U.S. jobs. Of the total transactions in 2014, approximately 89% (3,347) were with small business for a total of \$5.9 billion. Between 2012 and 2015, \$7 billion in financial authorizations went to 704 California exporters, which supported \$14 billion in exports.

Support – 64 Assembly Members, including Olsen, Patterson and Perea supported this bill.

Opposition – Only Assemblymember Gatto opposed it, but several others, including Assemblyman Bigelow, abstained from voting.

Status – Passed through Assembly and is now on is now going through the Senate.

Staff Recommendation – Support

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

ITEM C

June 10, 2015

AB 323 (Olsen) CEQA: exemption: roadway improvement
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Source – Cal Chamber, Leg Info

Summary – Extends the January 1, 2016, sunset date, until January 1, 2020, on an exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for projects to repair, maintain, and make minor alterations to existing roadways.

Background – Legislation enacted in 2012, AB 890 (Olsen), Chapter 528, Statutes of 2012, exempted from CEQA minor highway repair projects carried out by a local government, until January 1, 2016. This exemption is consistent with other existing CEQA exemptions. For example, CEQA guidelines provide a categorical exemption for work on existing facilities where

there is negligible expansion of an existing use, specifically including existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities.

Additionally, emergency projects undertaken by a public agency to maintain, repair, or restore an existing highway that has been damaged as a result of fire, flood, storm, earthquake, land subsidence, gradual earth movement or landslide are exempt from CEQA if carried out within one year of the damage. AB 890 included a provision that requires lead agencies claiming the exemption to file a notice with OPR. According to the Assembly Natural Resources Committee analysis, where this bill was heard previously, OPR reports no notices filed to date related to the AB 890 exemption. Consequently, it appears the AB 890 exemption has not been used yet. To preserve the Legislature's ability to periodically evaluate the effects of this exemption, AB 323 includes a four-year sunset, until January 1, 2020.

Supporters assert that, while the need for environmental review on major projects is without question, less intensive safety projects, such as installing or replacing a guardrail within the existing footprint of a local street, have few if any environmental impacts. They support AB 323 because it has the potential to save money and time, especially for local authorities in rural areas of the state.

Support – A number of organization support this bill, including Association of California Cities, Central Valley Flood Control Association, and Cal Chamber, which labels this bill a *job creator*.

Opposition – None on file

Status – Passed the Assembly and is now in Senate Environmental Quality

Staff Recommendation – Support

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

ITEM D

June 10, 2015

AB 35 (Chiu) Income taxes: credits: low-income housing: allocation

Source – Cal Chamber, Leg Info

Summary – Modifies the existing Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program and increases the aggregate credit amount that may be annually allocated to low-income housing projects by \$300 million for the 2016 calendar year and each calendar year thereafter, as provided.

Beginning in 2016 and each year thereafter, increases the amount of state LIHTC by an additional \$300 million, as adjusted for inflation starting in 2017. It provides that a low-income housing building that has received an award of 9% federal LIHTC is not eligible for an allocation from the additional \$300 million of state LIHTC, but shall remain eligible for the existing \$70 million allocation, as annually adjusted.

Background – According to the author, California's shortfall of 1.5 million affordable rentals impedes our state's economic growth by slowing job creation and driving Californians into poverty. When housing costs are accounted for, the proportion of people unable to meet their basic needs – food, shelter, transportation – rises from 16 percent to 23 percent, the highest rate of poverty in the nation.

A recent report from the California Housing Partnership depicts a growing statewide crisis driven by a growing divide between incomes and rents. Statewide, median incomes have fallen 8 percent since 2000; meanwhile, rental prices have soared by 21 percent in the same timeframe. Small businesses and creators of entry-level jobs face particular difficulties recruiting employees.

Support – The entire Assembly supported this bill, with the exception of one lawmaker who didn't vote. Cal Chamber labeled this bill a *job creator*.

Opposition – None of tile

Status – Passed the Assembly and is in the Senate pending referral.

Staff Recommendation – Support

TRACKING ISSUES

City of Fresno

NO.	ISSUE	SUMMARY	GAC POSITION	STATUS	BAINES	BRAND	BRANDAU	CAPRIOG	OLIVIER	QUINTER	SORIA
1	Recharge Fresno	Implement water rate hike to fund water infrastructure projects	SUPPORT	Feb 26th vote	SUPPORT	SUPPORT	SUPPORT	SUPPORT	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	SUPPORT
2	Enterprise Oversight Act	Ensure transparency in major projects using rate payer dollars	SUPPORT	Feb 26th vote	SUPPORT	SUPPORT	SUPPORT	SUPPORT	SUPPORT	SUPPORT	SUPPORT
3	Smart & Final Development	Allow Smart & Final to build on Blackstone	SUPPORT	*position taken in 2014							
4	Construction Management Act	Oversight for public projects over \$10 million to be completed on time and on budget	SUPPORT	May 21 vote	SUPPORT	SUPPORT	SUPPORT	SUPPORT	SUPPORT	SUPPORT	SUPPORT

Fresno County

NO.	ISSUE	SUMMARY	GAC POSITION	STATUS	BORGEAS	MENDES	PACHECO	PEREA	POOCHIGIAN
1	Recharge Fresno	Refrain from sending 30-40 protest ballots to water rate hike	SUPPORT	VOTED 1/27/15	SUPPORT	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
2	Riverbend Sand & Gravel Project	619-acre aggregate construction material mining project along the Kings River	SUPPORT	appeal withdrawn - no vote taken					

State

NO.	BILLS	TITLE	SUMMARY	GAC POSITION	STATUS
1	SB 5 (Vidak)	Transportation Fuel Exemption	Would eliminate the inclusion of transportation fuel in the cap and trade program	SUPPORT	Senate Environmental Quality
2	AB 23 (Patterson)	Transportation Fuel Exemption	Would eliminate the inclusion of transportation fuel in the cap and trade program	SUPPORT	Assembly natural resources
3	AB 54 (Olsen)	Construction Related Accessibility Claims	Would give businesses a 60 day cure period once a violation is found	SUPPORT	Senate Rules
4	SB 3 (Leno)	Minimum Wage Act	Would raise minimum wage	OPPOSE	Assembly Pending Referral
5	AB 11 (Gonzalez)	Paid Sick Days for In Home Health Workers	Would extend paid sick leave to in home healthcare workers	OPPOSE	Assembly Appropriations
6	AB 52 (Gray)	Public Accommodations: construction related accessibility claims	Would reduce damages assessed for ADA violations if area of noncompliance is fixed within 180 days	SUPPORT	Assembly Judiciary
7	SB 67 (Galgiani)	Disability access: statutory damages	Would limit small businesses from statutory damage liability in ADA claims	SUPPORT	Senate Judiciary
8	AB 156 (Perea)	Cal. Global Warming Solutions Act: investment plan	Would provide funding for small cities and communities to apply for projects to be included for consideration for cap & trade money	SUPPORT	Senate Pending Referral
9	AB 1389 (Patterson)	Fair Contracts for California Farmworkers	Would allow farmworkers to attend mediation and override an ALRB contract decision by majority vote.	SUPPORT	Assembly Labor & Employment
10	AB 842 (Patterson)	Double Payments for Health Care Coverage Fix	Would fix a problem that requires contractors to pay union health coverage on PLA jobs if the contractor is already paying ACA-approved coverage	SUPPORT	Failed Passage in Committee
11	AB 612 (Patterson)	Minimum Franchise Tax Reduction for New Businesses	Would allow new businesses with gross receipts of 5k or less to pay half the minimum franchise tax in years one and two	SUPPORT	Assembly Revenue and Taxation
12	AB 483 (Patterson)	Professional Licenses: Initial Licensure Fees	Would allow licensees to pay a pro-rated amount of their issuance fee so they wouldn't pay full renewal before one year has passed	SUPPORT	Senate Pending Referral

13	AB 263 (Patterson)	Hazardous Material Testing Methods	Would direct the Dept of Toxic Substances to update its regulations for testing methods to align with federal standards	SUPPORT	Assembly Environmen tal Safety and Toxic Materials
14	AB 335 (Patterson)	Air Resources Board Minor Violation Program	Would reinstate a program to issue a "notice to comply" for minor violations instead of immediate fines	SUPPORT	Failed Passage in Committee
15	SB 127 (Vidak)	Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014	Would streamline the environmental review process for projects funded by the Water Bond. Challenges to EIR under CEQA should be resolved within 270 days of report completion	SUPPORT	Senate Environmen tal Quality
16	SB 8 (Hertzberg)	Taxation on Service Industry Businesses	Would create a sales tax on service industry businesses like auto repair shops, contractors, restaurants, yoga studios, etc	OPPOSE	Senate Governance & Finance
17	SB 203 (Monning)	Safety Warning for Sugar Sweetened Beverages	Would mandate a safety warning on all beverages sweetened with sugar to read: CALIFORNIA STATE WARNNG: drinking beverages with added sugar contributes to obesity, diabetes and tooth decay	OPPOSE	Senate Health
18	SB 32 (Pavley)	Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: emissions limit	Extends the greenhouse gas emissions limit to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 and allows the state to establish benchmark limits for 2030 and 2040	OPPOSE	Assembly Pending Referral
19	SB 350 (De Leon)	Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015	Would set goals of 50% reduction in petroleum use, 50% utility power coming from renewable energy and 50% increase in energy efficiency in existing buildings by 2030	OPPOSE	Assembly Pending Referral
20	AB 67 (Gonzalez)	Double Pay on the Holiday Act of 2015	Would require employers to pay employees at least double pay on Christmas and Thanksgiving.	OPPOSE	Assembly Failed
21	AB 357 (Chiu)	Fair Scheduling Act of 2015	Would require employers to provide employees with work schedules two weeks ahead of time or face penalties for changes within that period of time	OPPOSE	Assembly Inactive
22	AB 970 (Nazarian)	Labor Commissioner : enforcement of employee claims	Would make the state enforce minimum wage laws in cities that have raised it above the state level. In these cities, there's already a local agency required to enforce and penalize employers who fail to pay minimum wage	OPPOSE	Senate Labor and Industrial Relations
23	AB 883 (Low)	Employment: public employee status	Prevents an employer from adequately researching an applicant's work history without the threat of litigation	OPPOSE	Senate Pending Referral
24	AB 944 (Obernalte)	Unemployment compensation s benefits: hearing procedures	Would allow the unemployment insurance appeals board to conduct hearings over the phone instead of just in person, saving the state, employers and applicants time and money	SUPPORT	Assembly Insurance

25	AB 543 (Quirk)	Proposition 65: exposure	Would amend Prop 65 to require scientific testing and proof of harm from chemical exposure before a business is required to provide a warning	SUPPORT	Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials
26	AB 588 (Grove)	Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004	Would close loopholes that allow lawyers to sue businesses for minor paycheck stub mistakes	SUPPORT	Assembly Labor and Employment
27	AB 1038 (Jones)	Workplace Flexibility Act	Would allow four ten hour workshifts at the request of an individual, nonexempt employee	SUPPORT	Assembly Labor and Employment
28	AB 1468 (Baker)	Civil rights: disability access	Would presume compliance of ADA if the business received a close out letter from the State Architect and would allow a 60 day cure period to correct any violations from the notice date	SUPPORT	Assembly Judiciary
29	AB 1470 (Alejo)	Working hours: overtime	Would presume exempt status from overtime for nonmanual labor employees earning at least \$100,000 per year	SUPPORT	Assembly Labor and Employment
30	AB 463 (Chiu)	Pharmaceutical Cost Transparency Act	Would require drug manufacturers to provide more transparency for drugs that cost \$10,000 or more annually	SUPPORT	Assembly Health
31	SB 152 (Vidak)	Personal incomes taxes: earned income credit	Would put money back into the pockets of low-income taxpayers by creating the refundable California Earned Income Tax Credit	SUPPORT	Senate Appropriations
32	AB 1265 (Perea)	Public Private Partnership Sunset Extension	Would extend the existing P3 to continue indefinitely, which allows alternative transportation infrastructure funding, design and construction	SUPPORT	Assembly Appropriations
33	AB 1176 (Perea)	California Clean Fuel Partnership	Would require a majority of available funding, no less than 50%, of ARFVTP and AQIP to go to disadvantaged communities	SUPPORT	Senate Pending Referral
34	AB 857 (Perea)	CA Clean Truck Act	Would expand incentives to support deployment of clean and low carbon heavy-duty vehicles involved in goods movement	SUPPORT	Senate Pending Referral
35	AB 722 (Perea)	Small Business Access to Capital through Crowdfunding	Would offer startup and emerging small businesses new avenues for finding investors through crowdfunding	SUPPORT	Assembly Appropriations
36	AB 99 (Perea)	Mortgage Debt Forgiveness for Californians	Would extend the tax relief on forgiveness of mortgage debt by conforming California law to Federal law	SUPPORT	Senate Pending Referral

37	AB 185 (Garcia)	California New Markets Tax Credit	Would establish the California New Markets Tax Credit Program, authorizing up to \$200 million in tax credits to be deployed to small businesses in low-income tracts	SUPPORT	Assembly Revenue and Taxation
38	AB 544 (Mullin)	Income taxes: credits: research activities	Would modernize California's research and development tax credit to encourage companies to increase investment funding	SUPPORT	Assembly In Desk Process
39	SB 546 (Leno)	Health care coverage: rate review	Would mandate any increase to large-group health insurance rates to be filed for review	OPPOSE	Assembly Pending Referral
40	AB 1017	Employers	Prohibits an employer from publishing a a job without listing the salary	OPPOSE	Senate Labor and Industrial Relations
41	AB 590 (Dahle)	Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund	Would appropriate money from GGRF into a Biomass State Cost Share Account	SUPPORT	Senate Pending Referral
42	SB 251 (Roth)	Civil rights: disability access	Would give businesses 90 days from CASp receipt to resolve issues and 30 days that don't impede access	SUPPORT	Assembly Pending Referral
43	SB 406 (Jackson)	Employment leave	Would significantly expand California Family Rights Act to include more family members for whom leave can be taken and reduce the small business exemption from 50 to five employees	OPPOSE	Assembly Pending Referral
44	AB 359 (Gonzalez)	Grocery Workers	Would require a company that buys an existing grocery store to retain employees for 90 days and recognize bargaining agreements	OPPOSE	Senate Labor and Industrial Relations
45	AB 465 (Hernandez)	Contracts against public policy	Would preclude mandatory employment arbitration agreements	OPPOSE	Senate Labor and Industrial Relations
46	ACA 4 (Frazier)	Local government transportation projects	Makes it easier to pass taxes by giving local government new authority to enact special taxes by lowering the vote threshold from two-thirds to 55% for local transportation projects	OPPOSE	Assembly Revenue and Taxation
47	SCA 5 (Hancock)	Local Government: special taxes: voter approval	Makes it easier to pass taxes by amending the State Constitution to allow local government to pass school tax for facilities by 55% voter approval instead of two- thirds	OPPOSE	Senate Governance & Finance
48	SB 654 (de Leon)	Hazardous waste: facilities permitting	Would establish tighter deadlines for hazardous waste facilities to submit permit renewals and if DTSC doesn't respond in 36 months the facility is deemed in violation	OPPOSE	Assembly Pending Referral

49	AB 1357 (Bloom)	Children and Family Health Promotion Program	Would impost a "health promotion fee" of \$0.02 per fluid ounce on bottled sugar sweetened beverages and concentrates	OPPOSE	Assembly health
50	AB 708 (Jones-Sawyer)	Consumer products: content information	Would require manufacturers of household cleaning products to disclose the 20 more prevalent ingredients contained on the label and online	OPPOSE	Assembly Appropriations
51	AB 19 (Chang)	Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development: small businesses	Requires review of regulation and the opportunity to amend those regulations to be less costly and less burdensome for small businesses while still achieving the same policy objectives	SUPPORT	Assembly Appropriations
52	AB 866 (Garcia)	Economic development: small business	Would expand the duties of OSBA to include assisting state rulemaking agencies to identify the aggregate number and size of businesses which may be affected by a new or amended regulation	SUPPORT	Senate Pending Referral
53	AB 356 (Williams)	Oil and gas: groundwater monitoring	Would limit fracking and harm business and the oil industry	OPPOSE	Assembly Failed
54	SB 248 (Pavley)	Oil and gas: groundwater monitoring	Would limit fracking and harm business and the oil industry	OPPOSE	Assembly Pending Referral
55	SB 454 (Allen)	Water Quality: oil and gas: exempted aquifer	Would limit fracking and harm business and the oil industry	OPPOSE	Senate Failed

Federal

NO.	BILLS	TITLE	SUMMARY	GAC POSITION
1	HR 30	40 Hour Work Week	Redefines full time as 40 hours per week instead of 30 hours per week for the Affordable Care Act	SUPPORT
2		Fuel Tax	Would raise the federal fuel tax to fund the Highway Trust Fund	OPPOSE
3		Trade Promotion Authority	Procedural authorization to allow Trans Pacific Partnership, which opens the export market for more commerce with countries	SUPPORT
4	HR 692 (McClintock)	Default Prevention Act	Would guarantee the U.S. Government's sovereign debt would be paid in full and on time under any circumstances - even during political gridlock	SUPPORT
5	HR 1668 (McClintock)	Save Our Water Act	During times of declared drought, would amend the Endangered Species Act to suspend water releases for adjusting river water temperatures	SUPPORT
6	S 1140 (Barrasso)	Federal Water Quality Protection Act	Would reverse the new EPA regulations which significantly expands the agency's control over bodies of water	SUPPORT

2015 GAC ATTENDANCE												
MEMBER	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
AMENDOLA	0	0	0	X	0							
AVAKIAN	X	X	X	X	X							
DHINDSA	X	X	X		0	0						
DOMINGOS	X	X	X	X	X							
EVANS		0	X	X	X							
EWELL		0	X		0	X						
FISCHER		0	X	X	X							
FORTUNE	X	X		0	X	X						
HUNSAKER	X	X		0	X	X						
JACOBSEN	X	X		0	X	X						
MALLOY	X		0	0	0	X						
MILLER	X	X		0	X							
SALAZAR	X	X	X		0	X						
SALISCH		0	X		0	0	X					
SMITH	X	X		0	X		0					
TAYLOR	X		0	0	X	X						
ZABRYCKI	X		0	X	X	0						
Present "X"	A member who misses 3 consecutive meetings will be dropped											
Absent "0"	A member who misses 4 of 12 annual regular meetings will be dropped											