



Los Angeles County Commission on Local Governmental Services

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May 3, 2011

TO: The Honorable Board of Supervisors
Mayor, City of Los Angeles
President, Los Angeles City Council
Los Angeles City Council
President, Independent Cities Association
President, L.A Division of the League of California Cities
President, Contract Cities Association
President, South Bay Council of Governments
President, San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
President, Westside Council of Governments
President, Gateway Cities Council of Governments
President, San Fernando Valley Council of Governments

FROM: Barry Waite, Chair, Commission on Local Governmental Services
Mark Burman, Vice Chair, Commission on Local Governmental Services

SUBJECT: 2010 YEAR-END REVIEW

This is a Year-End report on the activities of the Los Angeles County Commission on Local Governmental Services (the Commission) for 2010. The Board of Supervisors formed the Commission in 1977 to identify and recommend cost-effective and efficient ideas for the delivery of multi-jurisdictional services within the County.

I am pleased to state the Commission attained a quorum of commissioners for each month during 2010 and new commissioners added this year have expanded the already deep pool of knowledge and experience on the Commission. Unfortunately, we lost one of our members, Mr. John Noguez, when voters elected him to the post of County Assessor. We will certainly miss his participation although he has promised to work with the Commission to deliver the best service possible.

Policy Agenda Highlights

Green Building Standards

With the assistance of County departments and other organizations, the Commission developed a list of best practices for cities to establish green building development standards. The Commission took this action to assist Cities who are under pressure to develop standards for green buildings to assist the development community and to reduce the time effort and cost for each City to do this work individually. In addition, these standards upon approval will assist builders who face very different standards for each city. The list went to all City Planning Directors, some of whom stated their intent to base their own ordinance on these standards.

Waste Conversion

As existing disposal facilities reach their capacity, the County faces expensive choices for the disposal of waste. Citing new landfills in the County and surrounding areas is difficult at best. Shipping trash by rail to outlying areas is expensive and restrictive as to the capacity that can be transported by rail. The Commission has been working with Los Angeles County Department of Public Works to develop alternatives and encourage participation by cities in these alternative solutions. Specifically, the aim is to locate small waste conversion facilities throughout the County to greatly reduce costs and environmental impacts without concentrating those impacts in any one community.

Staff from the City of Burbank participated in a Commission meeting to discuss how the City's disposal facility will be impacted. Commissioners met with Long Beach Councilman DeLong to encourage consideration of a replacement for the City's existing recycling facility. Through former District Attorney Philibosian, the Commission connected possible facility operators with the City of Carson, which led to a series of meetings with Carson staff and County staff to develop an implementation plan. The Commission will be working through the League of California Cities, Contract Cities Association, and Independent Cities Association to involve more communities in this effort.

Los Angeles Regional Imagery Acquisition Consortium (LAR-IAC)

The County heads a coalition of agencies working together to share the cost and work of aerial photography and related products. The Commission encouraged participation by cities and other agencies to lower the cost for all participants and provide a common dataset from which to work.

AB 32 Compliance

AB 32 is the State of California's landmark legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to private sector requirements, local communities must inventory their own emissions and meet certain reduction targets. The County is well ahead of most communities in its efforts. There is a loose network of groups working together to not only reduce our collective carbon footprint but to save money at the same time by being more efficient. From purchasing policies to fleet management policies and development of water saving landscaping, those efforts can add to significant savings in both the long and short term. The Commission is looking to leverage those efforts to other communities in the County.

We are especially appreciative to our outgoing Chairman, Tyler Kelley, who shepherded the Commission forward in the last few years with a focus on practical issues where we could have a real and meaningful impact. He raised the bar on the level of commitment of each member and worked hard to bring in new members with the same level of energy and interest that he has. We are very pleased that he is remaining on the Commission as a member.

The Commission looks forward to continuing to serve all of you in 2011. In this era of diminished resources, we will work hard to make the most of Los Angeles' greatest resource; its people. Please do not hesitate to contact the Commission at (213) 974-1431 if you have any questions or concerns.

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