



Council Meeting: May 13, 2008

SUBJECT: Council Intergovernmental Committee Appointment to the Water Emergency Transportation Authority Citizen Advisory Committee

REPORT IN BRIEF

In January of each year, City Council fills a number of positions for intergovernmental assignments. Throughout the year, additional opportunities for intergovernmental assignments become available. Recently, the Water Emergency Transportation Authority contacted the City regarding an opening on the Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) Citizens Advisory Committee.

Staff recommends Council appoint a Councilmember and alternate to this assignment.

BACKGROUND

The City Council annually appoints members to a variety of intergovernmental agencies in order to represent the City's interests and to influence policies and regulations of other agencies. Specific intergovernmental appointments are sometimes made by other agencies; the appointments are then subject to Council ratification.

EXISTING POLICY

Legislative Sub Element, Goal 7.3C Participate in intergovernmental activities, including national, state and regional groups, as a means to represent the City's interest, influence policy and legislation, and enhance awareness.

Legislative Sub Element, Policy 7.3.C.1 Represent City policy in intergovernmental activities in accordance with adopted policy guidelines.

Council Policy 7.3.12 City Council Appointments to Intergovernmental Agencies, City Council Subcommittees and Council or Mayor-Created Advisory Task Forces

DISCUSSION

A brief description of the committee assignment follows, including designation of staff support.

Appointment to the Water Emergency Transportation Authority Citizen Advisory Committee

The Water Emergency Transportation Authority was established by legislation (SB 976, 2000) and replaces the Water Transit Authority (WTA). The intention of the enacting legislation is to improve the ability of ferries to respond in an emergency. SB 976 did not include language regarding a Community Advisory Committee, however, the newly appointed WETA Board approved continuance of a Community Advisory Committee and the use of original enabling legislation (SB 428, 1999) as a guide for its creation. Under the original enabling legislation, CAC members shall be appointed by their respective county boards or city councils. Members represent local jurisdictions where a water transit terminal exists or is proposed. Members also represent each special district providing public water transit services.

The CAC assists and advises the WETA Board in carrying out its functions. Specifically:

- The CAC members are an *important link* between the Water Emergency Transportation Authority and their respective communities regarding the planning process and recommendations.
- The CAC serves as a *sounding board* for ideas generated or solicited by the Water Emergency Transportation Authority, and proposals presented by Water Emergency Transportation Authority staff and consultants.
- The CAC *identifies issues of local concern* relating to transportation, land use, economic development and the environment.
- The CAC will be used to *keep the local agencies informed* of the progress of the Water Emergency Transportation Authority's charge of developing the Implementation and Operations Plan for an expanded water transit system.

The CAC meetings are generally held once a quarter.

Staff support for this assignment will be provided by Jack Witthaus, Transportation/Traffic Manager, Department of Public Works.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to this report.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall, in the Council Chambers lobby, in the Office of the City Clerk, at the Library, Senior Center, Community Center and Department of Public Safety; posting the agenda and report on the City's Web site; and making the report available at the Library and the Office of the City Clerk.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Council appoints a Councilmember and alternate to the Water Emergency Transportation Authority Citizen Advisory Committee.
2. Council takes no action at this time.
3. Other action as directed by Council.

RECOMMENDATION

Continued participation on the CAC will help to ensure that the WETA provides the best ferry service possible in the region, including a possible terminal in or near Sunnyvale. Therefore, staff recommends Alternative 1: Council appoints a Councilmember and alternate to the Water Emergency Transportation Authority Citizen Advisory Committee.

Reviewed by:

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