



Agenda Date: 4/5/2005
Agenda Placement: 10A

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Britt Ferguson for Nancy Watt - County Executive Officer
County Executive Office
REPORT BY: Andrew Carey, Management Analyst, 253-4477
SUBJECT: Report on 2005 CSAC legislative conference

RECOMMENDATION

County Executive Officer recommends receipt of a report concerning the 2005 California State Association of Counties (CSAC) legislative conference. The Board may or may not take action on any or all items presented for discussion. (Unanimous vote of the Board members present required)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) held its annual legislative conference in Sacramento on March 16th and 17th, 2005. County Executive Officer (CEO) Nancy Watt attended both the County Administrative Officers meeting and the CSAC Board of Directors meeting, and has previously reported verbally to the board concerning those meetings. The CEO's staff member with responsibilities for legislative coordination also attended the CSAC conference and has submitted a written report concerning key issues that were addressed during the conference. (Please see Background and Discussion section for report details.)

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) held its annual legislative conference in Sacramento on March 16th and 17th, 2005. In addition to holding various policy area committee meetings and a panel discussion concerning the Governor's proposals for public employee pension reform, CSAC made available its 2005 State Legislative Priorities.

CSAC's 2005 list of legislative priorities covers a number of issues in the major policy areas of Administration of Justice, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Economic Development, Government Finance and Operations, Health and Human Services, and Housing, Land Use, and Transportation. Concerns about the state's Fiscal Year 2005-2006 budget were placed at the top of CSAC's list of 2005 state legislative priorities. Consequently, CSAC has made it a key objective to "prevent loss of local revenues, cost shifts to local governments, and reductions to county programs without a corresponding change in service responsibilities." (For the complete list of CSAC's 2005 state legislative priorities please see Attachment A.)

The forum on public employee pension reform generated strong interest among conference participants. (CEO Nancy Watt has previously reported to the Board of Supervisors concerning discussions at the CSAC Board of Directors meeting concerning public pension reform and CSAC's desire to seek a legislative solution for this issue.)

The meeting of the Housing, Land Use, and Transportation Committee addressed a number of areas of interest to Napa County, specifically:

- | Discussion of the statewide need for affordable housing and proposals for reforming housing and land use elements that the Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency has submitted for comment. (See Attachment B.)
- | Discussion of a number of proposed legislative constitutional amendments to protect Proposition 42 (transportation) funds from being diverted to the general fund.
- | A report by the CSAC Indian Gaming Working Group concerning proposed federal tribal gaming legislation:
 - a. S 113, sponsored by Senator Dianne Feinstein, which if passed would require the Lytton Band of Pomo Indians to comply with a provision of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act that requires them to seek approval of the Secretary of the Interior and the Governor in order to engage in casino style gaming at their existing card room in San Pablo, and
 - b. A draft House bill by Representative Richard Pombo that would place restrictions on out-of-state "reservation shopping" by tribal entities, require (in most cases) local government approval of proposed tribal casino developments, and create two "Indian Economic Opportunity Zones" per state for the purpose of consolidating new tribal gaming activities.

It was agreed during the committee meeting that CSAC would respond to the housing and land use element proposals put forward by the Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency. On the issue of protecting Proposition 42 funds, it was agreed that CSAC's legislative advocate would monitor the progress of the various proposed constitutional amendments and represent CSAC's interests in discussions related to developing final language for the bills.

On the subject of Indian gaming, the Board of Supervisors from Contra Costa County requested that CSAC not take a position on S 113 until after April 5th, when their board was scheduled to discuss and take action on the bill. The committee agreed with this request. Representative Pombo's draft bill was discussed, areas of concern about the bill were identified, and the Indian Gaming Working Group undertook to respond to Representative Pombo's staff concerning the draft bill. It is anticipated that S113 and possibly the Pombo bill will be brought before this board for consideration and possible action at a later date.

Staff is not currently seeking direction concerning the contents of this report. However, the Board of Supervisors may or may not take action on any or all items presented for discussion.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

A . CSAC 2005 State Legislative Priorities

B . Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency proposed housing and land use eleme

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Britt Ferguson