



For Agenda Of:

November 10, 2005

ITEM # 13

To: Sacramento Transportation Authority

Subj: Report Back: Options for Appointing Alternate Representatives to the STA Governing Board

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file this report on the various options available to the County and cities for appointing alternate representatives to the Governing Board.

BACKGROUND

At the September meeting, your Board discussed some of the alternative voting protocols used by other county transportation agencies in California. This was in response to a request by some Board members to identify a method by which a jurisdiction with multiple representatives could exercise its proportional representation on the STA Board with fewer permanent representatives or without requiring that all members be present. The general consensus was to not pursue any formal changes to the existing “weighted representation” voting protocol at this time, and to encourage all Board members to nominate a designated alternate to represent them when they are unable to attend a meeting. Your Board directed staff to report back on the various options available for appointing alternates to the Board.

DISCUSSION

The creation and governance of local transportation authorities (LTAs) is set forth in the California Public Utilities Code. Provisions governing the composition of an LTA governing board are incorporated into Section 180051. There are two references to the appointment of alternate board members:

- (b) Each member of the authority, and each alternate designated pursuant to subdivision (c), shall be an elected official of a local governmental entity within or partly within the county . . .*

(c) Each member of the authority may have an alternate to vote or otherwise officially participate on behalf of the member at meetings of the authority when the member is not present. Either the member, or the alternate, but not both, may officially participate in a meeting of the authority. An alternate shall be designated as follows:

(A) Except as specified in subparagraph (B), the local governmental entity that appointed the member shall designate the alternate.

(B) A member who serves because the member holds a specified public office, as specified in the county transportation expenditure plan, shall designate his or her own alternate.¹

(2) An alternate acting on behalf of a member has all of the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of a member.

Traditionally, STA Board members have been elected representatives currently serving on the policy body (city council or Board of Supervisors) of the jurisdictions that they represent. The Public Utilities Code, however, requires only that each policy body appoint a representative(s) that currently holds elective office somewhere in the County. Board members are not required to be sitting county supervisors or city councilpersons.

There are effectively four options for appointing alternate members to the Board:

1. A regular member can nominate an alternate subject to confirmation by the governing body of the jurisdiction that he/she represents. This is the model used by the County Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Collin has selected *Virginia Moose* (American River Flood Control District) as her alternate, and Supervisor Dickinson has selected *Teri Burns* (Natomas Unified School District).
2. A jurisdiction's policy body can select a specified individual from among its currently sitting members to serve as the alternate. This is the case for Elk Grove (*Scherman*), Folsom (*Howell*), Galt/Isleton (*Shelton*), and Rancho Cordova (*Budge*).
3. A jurisdiction with multiple representatives on the Board may select an alternate(s) at large to fill in for any absent Board member(s). This is currently the model used by the City of Sacramento which has effectively appointed the four City Councilpersons that are not "regular" STA Board members as alternates. It is the responsibility of the member to contact one of the specified alternates when he/she will be absent.

¹ This provision does not apply to the STA, because no such members are specified in the County Transportation Expenditure Plan (CTEP) or the Transportation Expenditure Agreement.

4. Lastly, a jurisdiction may appoint a “permanent alternate(s)” in lieu of having a sitting member of its own policy body represent it on the STA Board. This can help to ease the work load of policy makers who sit on the boards of an assortment of multi-jurisdiction agencies. As mentioned, the “permanent alternate” must hold elective office somewhere in the County. To date, no jurisdiction has pursued this model.

At present, all participating jurisdictions except the City of Citrus Heights have appointed alternates for their STA Board representatives. The purpose of this report is to inform Board members of the breadth of options available for appointing alternates so that each of you may pursue the option which best serves your needs and those of the jurisdiction that you represent.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Executive Director