



## Meeting Minutes - Final

### CONTRA COSTA COUNTY Legislation Committee

Supervisor Diane Burgis, Chair  
Supervisor Ken Carlson, Vice Chair

<https://cccounty-us.zoom.us/j/82970370770>  
Call In: 1-888 278 0254, Access code: 219464

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Tuesday, April 16, 2024

10:00 AM 2255 Contra Costa Blvd., Suite 202, Pleasant  
Hill | 3361 Walnut Boulevard, Suite 140,  
Brentwood, CA 94513

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1. Introductions

*Vice Chair Carlson convened the meeting at 10:01 a.m. from his office. Chair Burgis was in attendance from her office but having computer issues; these issues resolved after Public Comment, and she was able to resume chairing the meeting. No members of the public joined the meeting from either Supervisor's office.*

*Also in attendance were:*

*Lara DeLaney, staff to the Committee*

*J. Dante*

*Kurt Henke, AP Triton*

*Mark Hartwig*

*Colleen Awad, District IV Senior District Representative*

*Esa Ehmen-Krause, Chief Probation Officer*

*Jim Davenport, Thorn Run Partners*

*Paul Schlesinger, Thorn Run Partners*

*Marshall Bennett, Director of Emergency Medical Services*

*Dr. William Walker*

*Lewis Broschard, Fire Chief CCCFPD*

*Timothy Ewell, Chief Assistant County Administrator*

*Michelle Rubalcava, Nielsen Merksamer*

*Kiki Farris, County Probation Department*

*Shoshana Wechsler*

*Monica Nino, County Administrator*

*Will Nelson, Department of Conservation & Development*

*John Kopchik, DCD Director*

*Tom Geiger, County Counsel*

*Jody London, County Sustainability Coordinator*

*Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer*

*Maureen Toms, Department of Conservation & Development  
chold*

**Present:** Diane Burgis and Ken Carlson

2. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two (2) minutes).

*No public comment was received.*

3. RECEIVE and APPROVE the Meeting Minutes for the March 25, 2024 meeting of the Legislation Committee, with any necessary corrections. [24-1111](#)

**Attachments:** [Meeting Minutes Draft 03.25.24](#)

*The Minutes for the March 25, 2024 meeting were approved as presented.*

**This Consent Item was approved.**

4. RECEIVE a report on federal matters of interest to the County and provide direction and/or input as needed. [24-1112](#)

**Attachments:** [Attachment A: Federal Update](#)

*The County's federal lobbyists, Paul Schlesinger and Jim Davenport, provided an update to the staff report. They discussed the political challenges in the House of Representatives for Speaker Johnson, with members of his own party expressing an intent to oust him from the leadership position.*

*Regarding appropriations for FY '25, no guidance had been issued as yet on "Community Project Funding" (formerly known as "earmarks"), but Jim reported it should be a similar process to last year, with minor tweaks. He anticipated that Congressman DeSaulnier's portal for applications would soon be open. He noted that he and Abigail Fateman, from the Department of Conservation and Development, were just in Congressman DeSaulnier's office in Washington, advocating for the Knightsen Wetland Restoration project and discussing the Harmful Algal Blooms Demonstration project as well.*

*Chair Burgis provided input on the Harmful Algal Blooms money, noting that project partnering has made it difficult to utilize the funding. She expressed an interest in pursuing funding to address the situation in the Delta through other means than through an Army Corps of Engineers project.*

*Further discussion about the Delta ensued, with Jim discussing a letter the delegation had sent to the Corps to request all possible steps to consider the environmental consequences of the Governor's proposed Delta Conveyance Project; a response should be expected soon. Vice Chair Carlson indicated a meeting had also been held with Region 9 of the EPA the prior week regarding the Conveyance project. Chair Burgis expressed appreciation for the advocacy efforts. No public comments were made.*

**This Consent Item was received.**

5. CONSIDER recommending a position of "Oppose" to the Board of Supervisors on SB 1057 (Menjivar) Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, a bill that proposes to make considerable changes to the local planning body and associated process for the deployment of Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) funds, as recommended by the Chief Probation Officer. [24-1113](#)

**Attachments:** [Attachment A: SB 1057 analysis and CPOC Oppose Letter](#)

*Chief Probation Officer Ehmen-Krause addressed the Committee about her concerns with SB 1057, noting its similarity to previous bills. She noted the significant disruption and destabilization to the system that the bill would create. Chair Burgis inquired about the motivation behind the bills, which was explained as long-standing issues with Los Angeles County's Probation department. Vice Chair Carlson supported the recommendation to oppose the bill, and Chair Burgis concurred. No public comments were made.*

**Recommend a position of "Oppose" to the Board.**

6. CONSIDER a position recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on AB 2973 (Hart) Emergency Services, a bill that purportedly intends to clarify the statutory responsibilities of counties, boards of supervisors, and local emergency medical service agencies regarding EMS and ambulance services and reaffirm the authority of the boards of supervisors in EMS and ambulance service provision decisions. [24-1114](#)

**Attachments:** [Attachment A-- AB 2973 \(Hart\) Bill Text as Amended 04.02.24](#)  
[Attachment B-- AB 2973 Committee Analysis Asm Emergency Mg 04.08.24](#)  
[Attachment C--Fact Sheet AB 2973 \(Hart\) EMS Coordination 4.2](#)  
[Attachment D-- Oppose and Concern Position Letters](#)  
[Attachment E-- Prior CCC position letters on related bills](#)  
[Attachment F--AB 2973 Support Letters](#)

*The County's EMS Director, Marshall Bennett, provided his assessment of the bill, AB 2973, which he suggested would lead to Emergency Medical System fragmentation, degradation of medical control, and ultimately would not serve the public and would erode county anti-trust protections. Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Chief, Lewis Broschard, noted that amendments to the bill were made in the Assembly just the previous day that may address Marshall's comments. He added that the Emergency Medical System is a complex system and that the bill, as currently amended, seeks to give boards of supervisors multiple options, which he then discussed. He noted that the author has accepted multiple amendments, and he then advocated for a support position on the bill.*

*Additional speakers included Mark Hartwig, the Fire Chief of Santa Barbara County and Kurt Henke of AP Triton, who each provided their assessment of the bill and its impacts. Chair Burgis requested the input of Chief Assistant County Administrator, Tim Ewell, who provided a historical perspective of the County's engagement on these issues and noted the County's own public process was anticipated this fall. Chair Burgis*

*requested County Counsel, Tom Geiger, to weigh in. Tom indicated that he had not seen the most recent set of amendments to the bill, but regardless, it would not change how Contra Costa does things. He also stated that ambulance procurement without a competitive process would remove county anti-trust protection. Chief Broschard provided additional comments about the most substantive amendment to the bill that removed EMS Plan sign-off by the Board. Marshall responded that there would still be impacts that would render the system unmanageable, degrade medical control, and expose the County to anti-trust liability. Dr. William Walker provided comments about the County Health Executives Association of California's (CHEAC) recent discussion of the bill and a recommendation to "Watch with concerns," which he noted was similar to the Urban Counties of California (UCC) position. Mr. Henke added that he believed the concerns could be addressed in the bill and would give the County more options.*

*The Committee expressed concerns with the dynamics of how the bill was developing. They noted that they had not seen CSAC's opinion on the bill as yet and wanted to wait until that opinion was shared. Because there was no urgency for a County position on the bill, the Committee directed staff to continue to watch the bill and bring it back at a subsequent meeting. (Note, the bill was subsequently pulled from hearing by the author and is not moving forward.)*

**Watch the bill.**

7. CONSIDER recommending a position of "Oppose" to the Board of Supervisors on AB 2557 (Ortega) and AB 2489 (Ward), bills that would limit the capacity of local agencies to use contractors to provide local services. [24-1115](#)

**Attachments:** [Attachment A: AB 2557 and AB 2489 Bill Text](#)

*The Committee supported a position of "Oppose" on the bills, AB 2557 and AB 2489, which was consistent with the adopted State Legislative Platform and prior Board of Supervisors advocacy on related bills.*

**Find an Oppose position consistent with the Platform.**

8. CONSIDER finding consistent with the adopted 2023-24 State Legislative Platform or recommending a position of "Support" to the Board of Supervisors on AB 3233 (Addis) Oil and gas: operations: restrictions: local authority, a bill that authorizes a local entity, by ordinance, to limit or prohibit oil and gas operations or development in its jurisdiction, notwithstanding any other law or any notice of intention, supplemental notice, well stimulation permit, or similar authorization issued by the State Oil and Gas supervisor or district deputy. [24-1116](#)

**Attachments:** [Attachment A: AB 3233 Bill Text](#)

*Staff provided a brief summary of the bill, AB 3233. Public comment was provided by Shoshana Wechsler who noted that the cities of Antioch and Brentwood had recently passed related ordinances to limit oil and gas operations and wanted it entered into the record that this bill clarifies and reaffirms existing rights. She noted that CSAC had joined an Amicus brief in December 2022 which supported Monterey County in its effort*

*to defend its drilling ordinance. The Director of the Department of Conservation and Development, John Kopchik, indicated that the intent of the bill is clearly to give authority to counties and cities, if they wish to use it, to enact policies, and this was a principle that our County has supported. Vice Chair Carlson inquired about the kinds of gas operations that could be included; Mr. Kopchik noted it was comprehensive. No further public comments were offered. The Committee found the bill consistent with the adopted State Legislative Platform.*

**Find the bill consistent with the Platform.**

9. RECEIVE a report on the FY 24-25 State Budget and the 2024 Bills of Interest to the County and provide direction and/or input as needed. [24-1117](#)

**Attachments:**

[Attachment A](#)

[Attachment B: CSAC 2024 Legislative Priorities](#)

[Attachment C: Bills of Interest](#)

*The County's state lobbyist, Geoff Neill, provided an update on the State Budget and the "Early Actions" taken by the Legislature to address the budget deficit, which amount to \$17.3 billion. He also noted that other one-time funds may be pulled back by the state, and the funding for the Bay Point Library was a critical concern. CAO Nino expressed additional concerns over the Public Defender's grant funding. Chair Burgis suggested that affected departments and advocates for the services may need to assist with flagging these concerns. No public comments were offered.*

**This Consent Item was received.**

10. The next meeting is currently scheduled for Monday, May 20, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.
11. Adjourn

*Chair Burgis adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.*