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County Supervisors Association of California

FACSIMILE COVER PAGE

DIRECT LINE FOR FAX MACHINE: (916) 441-5507

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Transmission To: CSAC Restructuring T.F.

FAX No.: (619) 557-4025 Williams

From: Bob Dorr, Chair

Special Instructions: Notice of Conference Call.

PLEASE CONTACT Sue McKean AT (916) 327-7508 IF FAX IS ILLEGIBLE OR INCOMPLETE.

Account No. 100

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County Supervisors Association of California

1100 K Street, Suite 101 / Sacramento, CA 95814-3941 / 916-327-7500 / FAX 916-441-5507

VIA FAX

October 29, 1991

TO: Members, CSAC Restructuring Task Force

FROM: Supervisor Bob Dorr, Chair

SUBJECT: RESTRUCTURING TASK FORCE CONFERENCE CALL:
Wednesday, November 6, 1991, 2:00 pm

The CSAC Restructuring Task Force will hold a conference call on Wednesday, November 6, at 2:00 pm. The purpose of this conference call is to finalize discussion before the CSAC annual conference. Santa Cruz County has recommended specific changes for your consideration, which I have attached.

Please contact Sue McKean at CSAC, (916) 327-7508, if you are unable to participate or will or will take the call from a location other than your office. Thank you.

BD:sgm
Attachment

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

GOVERNMENTAL CENTER

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

701 OCEAN STREET SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95060-4069
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FRED KEELEY FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 10/8/91

October 2, 1991

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: PROPOSED CSAC CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Dear Members of the Board:

The County Supervisors Association of California will hold its General Assembly for calendar year 1991 on Thursday, November 14, at the Monterey Hyatt Regency Hotel. At that time, CSAC will consider proposed constitutional amendments, which have been presented to all members of the Board of Supervisors. The draft constitutional amendments suggest numerous changes in the structure and operations of CSAC. One notable change is a proposed change relating to the consideration of resolutions relating to matters of policy.

Under current CSAC constitutional provisions, any Board of Supervisors may propose a resolution for consideration by the General Assembly of CSAC. Our Board has proposed such resolutions in the past, and I believe that we have, by submitting resolutions for CSAC consideration, helped draw the attention of all County Supervisors in California to significant public policy issues of special concern to Santa Cruz County. Under the proposed constitutional provisions, it will no longer be possible for Boards of Supervisors to submit resolutions directly to the CSAC General Assembly. Instead, all proposed resolutions will be considered only through the CSAC committee structure. The chance of drawing important public policy issues to the attention of all Supervisors in California will be significantly reduced, I believe, which is regrettable.

Of course, there are some advantages in the proposed system, as well as disadvantages. For instance, the proposed constitutional amendments will help to strengthen and make more important the CSAC committee structure, and will speed up CSAC's annual business meetings.

While I have doubts about eliminating the ability of CSAC's General Assembly to act directly on public policy matters, through the existing resolutions procedure, it is my impression that there is a strong agreement within CSAC that the procedure should be changed, along the lines outlined in the proposed Constitution. Accordingly, I have reviewed the proposed provisions with care, to see whether I think the new system will work well on its own terms, and find that there are certain inconsistencies and problems. I believe that it is important, if CSAC is going to change its current resolutions procedure, for the changes to be internally consistent, and it's also important that the new procedures provide a meaningful opportunity for the proponents of resolutions to get a full and fair hearing before the significant decision making bodies.

Attached to this letter as Exhibit 1 is a copy of the relevant provisions of the proposed CSAC Constitution. Exhibit 1 is presented in strike-out and underline form, using the existing CSAC Constitution as a foundation. Therefore, by examining Exhibit 1, it is possible to see what the existing Constitution provides, and to see what is proposed. By reviewing Exhibit 1, it is clear that significant changes are being made in the CSAC resolutions procedure.

Exhibit 2 is based upon Exhibit 1, but with certain additions and amendments which I believe would help make the proposed constitutional provisions work better. Specifically, the draft constitutional provisions which have been suggested by the CSAC Board of Directors are not internally consistent, in that some provisions allow an individual Supervisor to propose a resolution, and other provisions seemingly restrict the right to propose a resolution to a Board of Supervisors, a regional association, or a caucus of Supervisors. I am suggesting that we urge that the more expansive ability to propose a resolution be adopted uniformly. I also suggest a correction in Article XVI, which indicates that certain types of constitutional amendments may be acted upon only by the general membership. As currently drafted, Article XVI erroneously cites a reference to Article XV, which is proposed to be amended to eliminate any general membership action on constitutional amendments.

In addition, I am suggesting changes which make clear that a Supervisor, Board of Supervisors, or regional association or caucus of Supervisors must be promptly informed of the action of any committee, with respect to any recommendation made on a proposed resolution; further, the amendments I propose would guarantee the right of the Supervisor, Board of Supervisors, or regional association or caucus of Supervisors to appear and be heard in favor of their proposed resolution, if the Executive Committee or the Board of Directors is going to hear any arguments presented by persons who are not members of the Executive Committee or Board of Directors. This seems to me to be an elemental rule of fairness, which I think should be built into the procedures at the outset.

In Exhibit 2, the changes that I am suggesting to the proposed CSAC constitutional changes are printed in italics. Exhibit 2, thus, shows the existing CSAC Constitution, the proposed changes suggested to the existing Constitution, in strike out and underline form, and the further changes that I suggest, in italics.

I recommend that the Board of Supervisors take the following actions at this time:

1. Endorse the changes to the proposed CSAC draft Constitution presented in Exhibit 2 to this letter.

2. Direct the County's representative to the CSAC Board of Directors to urge that these changes be incorporated in any constitutional procedure.

3. Direct the Chairperson of the Board promptly to inform the CSAC Executive Committee and Board of Directors that our County urges the changes in Exhibit 2, to make the proposed constitutional changes work better.

4. Direct the Chairperson to write to members of Boards of Supervisors from other counties in California, urging that these amendments be incorporated in the Constitution before adoption.

Very truly yours,

Gary A. Patton /ted

GARY A. PATTON, Supervisor
Third District

GAP:ted
Attachments

cc: Steve Swendiman, CSAC Executive Director

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