



Government Affairs

Government Affairs Committee Activities Highlights/Summary Report for 2011

The Government Affairs Committee adopted, and the Board of Directors ratified, the following goals for 2011:

Work for accomplishment of the Regional Water Project and reasonable water policies, including rate structures fair to businesses and residents; active support for development of critical transportation improvements and funding and successful implementation of the Regional Taxi Authority; institute task forces to pursue Monterey downtown revitalization and restructuring of the conference center, expeditious widening of Highway 156, and fair and equitable delivered water rates; continue active involvement in and coordination with the Monterey County Business Political Action Committee where appropriate in local elections; work for continued success of tourism marketing and promotion funding; ensure special event planning stays voluntary and in the private sector; continue and expand strategic alliances, relations with elected officials and key staff; continue to hold monthly meetings and invite special presentations on key public policy issues.

The Government Affairs Committee followed the plan outlined by the 2011 goals in the following actions. This list presents highlights only, not an exhaustive recap of the activities of government affairs activities, the activities of the government affairs director, or of the activities of member volunteers.

- Held monthly meetings and occasional special meetings and reported to the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors.
- Heard special presentations, including: 1) Representative Sam Farr on highway funding and tourism promotion; 2) briefing by principals of "Deepwater Desal" proposed project; 3) roundtable discussion with Cal Am President, Director of Rates, Monterey Region General Manager and Monterey Region External Affairs Manager on rates and rate structure and on potential fines if the CDO deadline is not met; 4) County special events coordinator re county special events planning and fees; 5) briefing by principal sponsor of WaterPlus, dedicated to the public buy-out of Cal Am.
- Actively engaged in support for the Regional Water Plan and gaining final county approval.
- Continued to actively pursue the widening of Highway 156 through establishment of a task force.
- Continued efforts to achieve successful implementation of the Regional Taxi Authority.
- In coordination with the Board, established and maintained Task Forces to support downtown Monterey revitalization and restructuring of the Conference Center, restructuring of Cal Am commercial water rates, successful implementation of the Regional Taxi Authority, and widening of Highway 156.
- Formed a Coalition of Peninsula Businesses with six other organizations to assure meeting the CDO water reduction deadline at a reasonable cost.
- Continued support for success and expansion of the Tourism Improvement Districts established in 2006 with MCHA's help.
- Took positions on key local, state and federal policy issues and legislation, endorsed local candidates for key offices.
- Provided e-mail action alerts and calls to action on critical industry issues, including recommendations on candidates and ballot measures.
- Reviewed 2011 Government Affairs activities and accomplishments and developed 2012 Government Affairs Goals, Objectives and Tasks.