

**Tulare Chamber of Commerce
Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 11, 2016 at 12:00 pm, 1165 N. Blackstone St., Tulare**

Call to order: Renee Soto called the meeting to order at 12:14 PM

Minutes: Upon motion being duly made and seconded, minutes for March were approved.

Updates:

- Chamber of Commerce – Rachel Souza, Ben Brubaker
- Board of Equalization – Tom Mendes
- State Assembly: Assemblyman Devon Mathis – Grace Robinson
- State Senator: State Senator Jean Fuller – Stephanie Amaral
- Congressional: Congressman Devin Nunes – Crystal Ervin

Discussion and/or Action Items:

- Communication from Senator John M.W. Moorlack (37th Senate District) Information on proposed bills relative to Chamber of Commerce. - **Information Only**
- Request for position on AB 1865 (Patterson) "Contractors: trust or custodial benefits plans: health benefits" requested by Common Sense Consulting– **Item tabled for further discussion**

Presentation:

- **Aubrey Bettencourt, CA Water Alliance regarding, "More DAM Storage"**
 - The Water Priorities Constitutional Amendment and Bond Act fixes long-term water problems by increasing storage capacity for all water users – families, farms and the environment – without raising taxes.
 - Prioritizes water for all people.
 - The money would come from redirected funds: \$8 billion in previously authorized High Speed Rail Bond Funds, \$2.7 billion in previously authorized water bond funds.
 - Allocates up to \$10.7 billion to state water storage needs.
 - Amends Article X of the California Constitution making drinking water and irrigation the primary beneficial water use priorities for the people of the state ahead of all other needs.
 - Takes spending decisions out of the hands of political appointees and gives them to an elected board representative of the state's people.
 - Deadline to file petitions is April 20, 2016. If needed, can rollover to 2018.

Discussion and/or Action Item:

- Request for position on The Water Priorities Constitutional Amendment and Bond Act. Upon motion being duly made and seconded, **The Water Priorities Constitutional Amendment and Bond Act was endorsed.** Motion: Kevin Mooney. Second: Jan Lazarus. Motion carries to support The Water Priorities Constitutional Amendment and Bond Act in all aspects by, informing members, writing letter of support if necessary, and ballot signing location.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 pm.