

**ALAMEDA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS'
UNINCORPORATED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, February 13, 2008
6:30 p.m.**

PLEASE NOTE TIME

**Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker, Chair
Supervisor Nate Miley**

**Location: San Lorenzo Village Homes Association
377 Paseo Grande
San Lorenzo, CA 94580**

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker called the meeting to order.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

II. UTILITY USERS TAX

Susan Muranishi, County Administrator, presented introductory comments regarding the Utility Users Tax.

Ken Gross, Principal Analyst, County Administrator's Office, presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Utility Users Tax.

The Utility Users Tax revenue generates approximately \$9.1 million annually and is used to fund services in Unincorporated Alameda County, including, library, fire, law enforcement and community development services.

On Tuesday, February 19, 2008, the Board of Supervisors will vote to approve the ballot measure on whether to extend the sunset of the Utility Users Tax beyond the June 30, 2009 sunset date. In addition, the vote will include whether to amend the ordinance to include rate changes to the tax.

Supervisor Nate Miley – comments

Regarding the sunset, prefer the sunset be greater than ten years (12 to 15 years)

Should cable be taxed, rate be raised

Susan Muranishi – costs, rates are increasing,

Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker comments

Questions/Discussion

Unincorporated area residents voiced several concerns, including not having enough time for a public process, continuing the sunset, utility users tax is part of a general election in which entire County votes on issue that only affects unincorporated area residents.

In response to general election versus unincorporated area only election, Supervisor Miley stated that the UUT is a general tax. If it were a “special tax” and put to voters of unincorporated area, it likely would not pass the two-thirds approval required.

Ken Gross: State budget deficit (\$14 billion +, \$3 billion in current fiscal year) is affecting decisions, which may impact County programs

Susan Muranishi : mostly used to continue existing programs

Claude Kolm:

Speakers

Kathy Ready: Does not agree with eliminating the sunset.

Norman Fobert – does not have a problem with eliminating the sunset

Wulf Bieschke – Continue the sunset clause at 10 years

Mark Lowry – In favor of a tax rate increase and to it to improved local representation; continue the sunset

Stan Stadelman – His utility costs have doubled, not in favor of tax increase; unfair for the entire county to vote on a tax that they are not affected by

Steve Rosenberg – Unfair to have a entire county vote on a tax that only affects unincorporated residents; prefers special tax;

Dorothy Partridge – Change the legislation regarding the two-thirds approval for special tax; in favor of tax increase; continue the sunset

Jim Sherman – do not increase the tax

Debra Butler – asked if a tax increase would cover current programs or future programs;

Richard Hancock – None of the cities have a sunset clause on their UUT; sunset should be eliminated

Nancy Van Huffel – Concerned that decisions have to be made too quickly without much public input; supports the sunset clause.

Cheryl Miraglia: gla

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned to February 27, 2008.

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