



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BLUE RIBBON BUDGET TASK FORCE

ACTION SUMMARY

January 20, 2006 12:00 – 4:30

BOS Internal Conference Room,
4th Floor, County Administration Building
105 E. Anapamu St. Santa Barbara CA 93101

Members

Jack Boysen

Judith Hopkinson

William Kimsey

Parker Montgomery

William Watkins

1. Call to order @ 12:04 p.m.

Present: Boysen, Hopkinson, Kimsey, Montgomery, and Watkins
Absent: None

2. Public comment period

No requests to speak

3. Discussion of draft recommendations

Provided staff direction

4. Presentation of requested pension funding analyses

Received presentation

5. Discussion of Probation Services

Received presentation from Probation Department staff

6. Direction for future agenda

Provided staff direction for future agendas

7. Adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Adjourn to February 3, 2006, 12:00 pm, in the Board of Supervisors internal conference room

The Board of Supervisors Internal Conference Room in Santa Barbara is located on the Fourth Floor of the County Administration Building to the left upon exiting the elevator, 105 East Anapamu Street. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Hearing Room is wheelchair accessible. Accessible public parking is available behind the County Administration Building and in City Parking Lot #6 located at the corner of Anacapa Street and Anapamu Street.

American Sign Language interpreters, Spanish language interpretation and sound enhancement equipment may be arranged by contacting the Task Force care of the County Executive's Office at 568-3400.

Any person may request that a copy of the agenda, or a copy of all the documents constituting the agenda packet, be mailed to that person. Requests to make agendas and documents available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. § 12132), may be made to the Task Force care of the County Executive's Office at (805) 568-3400.

Summary information for (“Direction for future agendas”)

The Blue Ribbon Budget Task Force has discussed examining a number of areas for future agendas. A list and summary of these topics is included below:

1) human resource process improvement. The Task Force desires to examine human resources issues as employee costs are the primary budget item for the County. Three preliminary issues the Task Force would like to explore are 1) the County’s compensation and classification system, 2) employee benefit costs, 3) opportunities to reduce overtime and lost time. These issues will be scheduled on a future agenda. Additionally, the Task Force has completed one review of the County’s privatization policy and is drafting a recommendation.

Status: initial presentation received on 10/28/05; follow-up anticipated 1/6/05; recommendations pending

2) revenue enhancement opportunities. The Task Force intends to complete a detailed examination of the County’s revenue policies and revenue opportunities. The Task Force will also consider the current use of County assets and potential improvements, potential enterprises and franchises, review of current user fees and potential new user fees, review of use of Tobacco Settlement Funds and any similar funds, and the potential of making a business relationship with an outside party.

Status: initial presentation received on 10/14/05; follow-up scheduled but continued on 11/10/05; follow-up on 12/16/05; examples and recommendations being developed

3) a discussion of the strategic scan and a forecasting presentation by Bill Watkins. The Task Force would like to receive a presentation of the strategic scan being considered by the Board of Supervisors. The Board received a presentation by staff on approximately two-thirds of the topic and continued the remaining discussion to a future Board agenda. Staff is prepared to present the material to the Task Force. The Task Force is interested in understanding the financial path the County is on without intervention.

The Task Force also asked Bill Watkins for an overview of the UCSB Economic Forecast Project’s latest analysis. This analysis was an integral part of the strategic scan so there may be an opportunity for the Task Force to be presented these two issues concurrently.

Status: initial presentation on 11/10/05; item deemed complete on 1/6/06

4) requested Public Health information. The Blue Ribbon Budget Task Force discussed purchasing on September 9, 2005. In particular, the discussion centered on health services contracts. The Task Force asked Public Health a number of questions. Public Health requested that responses be brought back at a later meeting of the Task Force. Staff is working with Public Health to schedule this item.

Status: initial presentation on 9/9/05; follow-up on 11/10/05 and 12/16/05; item deemed complete on 1/6/06

5) requested budget comparison information. On August 8, 2005 the Blue Ribbon Budget Task Force examined the County’s budget processes. One request the Task Force had of the Office of Budget and Research was to survey the budget processes of comparable counties. The Task Force would then have the opportunity to compare the County’s budget process to others and determine if there are opportunities for process improvement. The Office of Budget and Research has completed the survey, received a number of responses and are examining the returns. Staff will work to schedule this item on a future agenda of the Blue Ribbon Budget Task Force.

Status: initial presentation on 7/8/05; follow-up on 8/8/05 and 10/28/05; statistical comparisons to follow

6) system automation processes and management. The Blue Ribbon Budget Task Force has requested examining opportunities for process improvement. Some process improvement recommendations are imbedded in other recommendations of the Task Force. One additional area of process improvement that the Blue Ribbon Budget Task Force may want to examine is the process the County undertakes when developing or implementing a new automated or computer-based management system. The County has developed or implemented a number of these systems in recent years and is continually looking for opportunities to apply additional automated services as a way to increase government efficiency.

Status: potential agenda item to be determined by Task Force; item discussed and staff direction given on 1/6/06; IT business plan being developed for 3/3/06

7) non-essential County services. The Blue Ribbon Budget Task Force is interested in determining which, if any, of services provided by the County are non-essential.

Status: potential agenda item to be determined by Task Force; requested staff provide a list of non-essential general fund services

8) probation funding. The Blue Ribbon Budget Task Force is interested in receiving a presentation on probation funding in Santa Barbara County. In particular, the Mission County Formation Review Commission determined there are great variances in probation funding across California counties. The Task Force is interested in learning about these variances and examining the level of probation funding in Santa Barbara County.

Status: potential agenda item to be determined by Task Force; presentation received on 1/20/06; recommendations pending

9) six month extension. Request on December 6 (SB) or December 13 (SM) that the Board of Supervisors grant the Task Force an additional six months to complete review, analysis and recommendations of items listed in the Board's May 3, 2005 Board letter.

Status: initially discussed on 10/28/05; follow-up on 11/10/05 agenda; extended by the Board of Supervisors on 12/13/05

10) adoption of recommendations. The Blue Ribbon Budget Task Force is preparing a number of recommendations as they consider and review areas of the County operations. These recommendations are being compiled and will have to be adopted by the Task Force or included as part of a final report. The Board gave the Task Force the opportunity to have two deadlines – the six month deadline was intended to allow the Task Force to make budget recommendations in time to be incorporated into the County's 2006-2007 budget process.

Status: final report to be adopted 3/31/06

PROPOSED FUTURE MEETING DATES

Friday	February 17, 2006	noon to 4:30
Friday	March 3, 2006	noon to 4:30
Friday	March 10, 2006	noon to 4:30
Friday	March 31, 2006	noon to 4:30