

Agenda Item Number 11.a.

Follow-up to Board Planning, Proposed July Session

Presenter: George Kloeppel

Action Recommended: Provide Direction to Staff

Discussion:

At the April 9 Executive Committee meeting, a discussion was held regarding the Board's February Planning Session. The Committee had previously directed that the April Board meeting focus on public safety, the subject having been given a high priority in the Board's February Session. However, beyond April, the Committee desired additional guidance from the Board regarding special topics that might be pursued to "improve the well being of the region."

Executive Committee members (and management staff) agreed that the one-hour time allocation for the February Planning Session was too short, and that there was inadequate opportunity to explore means by which the Board and the agency might bring about positive change. That belief, coupled with the constantly changing dynamics of the economy, citizen needs and public sector revenue, prompted the Committee to recommend that the Board convene in July to reassess opportunities and to provide direction.

Board members will recall that the suggestion was made at the Planning Session to wait until July to take a comprehensive look at the regional governmental landscape—federal "stimulus" investments, State and local budget decisions, etc. Also noteworthy is the fact that, until a few years ago, the LCOG Board routinely held six meetings per year, including one dedicated to planning and goal-setting on the fourth Thursday in July. While the July meeting has been dropped from the schedule in the most recent years, by motion, the Executive Committee requests that the Board consider directing staff to reinstate that meeting and to provide two and a half to three hours for the Board's consideration of how to most effectively and efficiently to apply the resources of the agency to bring about positive change. Mayor Williams, who attended the Committee meeting, offered to host a meeting on July 23, if such a meeting was desired by the Board.