

Section 28f

Brown Gives Up AB 4242 For Now
Kitty Griffin, Staff Writer, Benicia Herald, Benicia, California
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Brown gives up AB 4242 for now

■ Assembly Speaker pulls bill on regional government because of opposition by cities, but it will resurface at next legislative session

By KITTY GRIFFIN
Herald Staff Writer

Assembly Speaker Willie Brown dropped his controversial regional government bill Saturday, but only for this legislative session.

After failing to get AB 4242 to a vote in the Assembly's Local Government Committee last week, Brown said he will let it die because of intense local government opposition.

But policymakers who like the idea of regional government are not taking AB 4242's setback as a bad sign.

At a meeting Monday of Bay Vision 2020 in Fairfield, the blue-ribbon panel's project director, Joe Bodovitz, told the commission many of the revised provisions in the bill "are bound to resurface" and that the authors of similar bills plan work together during the relative adjournment during

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the winter to revamp and present a united front in the next legislative session.

Bodovitz said the following components of Brown's revised bill will come up again:

- The idea of planning infrastructure in seven regions throughout the state.

- The idea that a region may be exempted from the centrally arranged plan if it can come up with its own plan that addresses the need for unified planning.

- The matter of who represents the region. In Brown's original bill, 13 representatives would have been elected at large; later, they would have been appointed by the governor, the speaker, and the head of the Senate Rules Committee. Now, the idea is to have them elected by district.

- A conflict resolution committee must be formed and local governments must be bound by its decisions.

- Provision for subregional governments, an idea that surfaced to serve the needs of large Southern California counties, but which is attractive to rural counties such as Solano.

- The idea that each region will consolidate its area government (the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) in this area), its transportation planning body (the Metropolitan Transportation Commission), the air quality planning body (Bay Area Air Quality Management District), the planning but not the regulation functions of the water planning body, and possibly the Local Agency Formation Commissions.

- Funding to each of these from the state would be switched to the new regional government that includes them all.

Members of Bay Vision 2020 asked Bodovitz whether there is any talk of enlarging the governing body of 13, envisioned in Brown's bill, in its upcoming versions, but Bodovitz said the issue is not the size but how they would be selected.

"Governance" is the issue on which ABAG's Regional Planning Committee bogged down in the plan it recently completed, and finally passed along to ABAG's Executive Board without a governance section.

Governance is the issue that is about to come up at Bay Vision 2020 as well, according to the commission chairman

Michael Heyman, retired recently as chancellor of the University of California at Berkeley.

Heyman told the group Monday that presentations on governance possibilities will be given by scholars from the Institute of Government Studies in Berkeley at the next two meetings.

Also at Monday's meeting was former Assemblyman John Knox, author of many bills on regional government in the late 1960s and 1970s. Knox called governance a "thicket, a marsh, a maze, but there's got to be some way out of it, and I know you can find it."

ABAG Executive Director Revan Tranter, also at the meeting Monday, said AB 4242's defeat says nothing about ABAG's regional plan or its future. For one thing, the plan passed his committee 16-3 with one abstention, a very strong statement, he said.

Also, he said, although a few of the 40 cities and counties that responded to the draft were against it, others were for it, and there was a large group that had misgivings but not enough to oppose it. Less than half of the 96 cities and counties that received the draft

responded.

Tranter said Brown's problem may have been the "uniform approach" with a "set of numbers" that were spelled out in the governance part of AB 4242.

Bob Power, the Bay Vision 2020 host for Monday's meeting and a resident of Vacaville, said Brown was sensitive to the criticism his bill received from local governments. Power said Brown refused to get labeled as a person trying to gain control through the power of appointment in his governance plan.

A spokesman for the County Supervisors Association of California last week said Brown might not have leaned heavily enough on Democrats in the Assembly Local Government Committee.

The Kentwig Swim and Racquet Club in Vallejo is giving junior tennis enthusiasts the chance to hone their skills.

The club has been offering camps for for beginning, intermediate and above intermediate players all summer long.

Enrollment is limited to eight students per level. Each student will receive a T-shirt, daily refreshments and 10 hours of instruction and play.

Each session costs \$35. The final camp for for beginning, intermediate and above intermediate begins Monday and concludes Friday.

The second advanced camps is Aug. 20-24.

For more information call DeDee Winfield at 644-7132.