Energy, Water & Environmental Sustainability Council

July 15, 2014
10-11:30 am

1. Welcome and Self-Introductions

2. City of L.A. RFP for Exclusive Franchise Waste Haul System
   Special Guest: Kevin James, President, City of L.A. Board of Public Works

3. Fuels Under the Cap
   Special Guest: Patty Senecal, Manager, Western States Petroleum Association

4. Announcements

   Next Meeting:
   Friday, August 15th, 10-11:30 a.m.
Kevin James  
President  
Board of Public Works Commission, City of Los Angeles

Kevin James was a former Mayoral candidate who spent time with more than 50 of the City’s neighborhood councils as part of his campaign. That experience will be useful as he segues to the President of Board of Public Works Commission.

Beginning his legal career almost 25 years ago in Los Angeles, James has worked for several firms, most recently for Lively & Singer, where he was an entertainment litigator with a broad practice from right of publicity to accounting/profit participation cases.

James also served for a time as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Department of Justice, prosecuting both criminal and civil actions. He received the Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys 1992 Director’s Award for Superior Performance, presented by then US Attorney General Janet Reno.

In parallel to his legal career, James also has worked as a broadcaster. He started as an on-air legal analyst on Court TV, but then transitioned to radio about 10 years ago, at first to provide his legal expertise. He transitioned in 2005 into the role of host of a local issues talk show that focused on City Hall. He most recently spearheaded “The Kevin James Show” on 870 KRLA (AM 870).

James donates his time and legal expertise to local charities, including the AIDS Project Los Angeles, of which he was Co-Chair of the Board of Directors. James also served on the boards for Operation Progress, working with LAPD to identify South LA’s most promising at-risk young students and awarding them with full scholarships from second grade through college, and First-in-Fire Foundation that supports the LAFD.

After growing up in Texas, James completed his accounting degree at the University of Oklahoma before pursuing his law degree at the University of Houston College of Law.
Patty Senecal  
Manager  
Western States Petroleum Association (WSPA)

WSPA is a non-profit trade association founded in 1907 to represent companies that account for the bulk of petroleum exploration, production, refining, transportation and marketing in the six western states. WSPA is dedicated to working towards ensuring that Americans continue to have reliable access to petroleum and petroleum products through policies that are socially, economically and environmentally responsible. www.wspa.org

Ms. Senecal joined WSPA in April 2010, as the Manager for the Southern California Region. She represents Southern California Refineries on technical and policy issues at the South Coast Air Quality Management District, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, Ports of LA and Long Beach, and other local/regional regulatory agencies.

Since 1996 Ms. Senecal serves on the Advisory Board at the California State University Long Beach Extension Services for the ‘Center of International Trade and Transportation’ (CITT) and is a senior member of the Policy and Steering Group for the CITT. Other organization where she participates includes Orange County Business Council, Los Angeles and Long Beach Chambers, Los Angeles Business Federation (Biz-Fed), Future Ports, and Inland Empire Economic Partnership.

She represented the International Warehouse Logistics Association and Harbor Truckers Association from 2007 – 2010 for government affairs. She was the Chairperson of Californian Trucking Association Intermodal Carriers Conference from 2002-2007 and Board member of the American Trucking Association Intermodal Policy Group from 2001-2010. Ms. Senecal was the Trucking Industry representative to the working group for Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach Clean Air Action Plan for the Clean Trucks Program. She represented trucking and warehousing to the Gateway Cities Council of Government Community Advisory Committee for the 710 Major Corridor EIS/EIR phase from February 2004 – April 2006 and the Tier 2 Community Advisory Committee for the Interstate 710 Major Corridor Study. She is currently a member of the 710 Freeway AQAP working group.

Prior to joining WSPA, Ms. Senecal was formerly the Vice President at Transport Express, (now Port Logistics Group), a family business which provided warehousing, distribution; value added services, intermodal drayage, intrastate and interstate trucking services for importers and exporters utilizing the Los Angeles and Long Beach seaports, airports and railroads. Ms. Senecal has a BA from CSU Fullerton.
Viewpoints: Comprehensive energy plan must balance environment and economy

By George Deukmejian, Pete Wilson and Gray Davis
Special to The Bee
Jul. 13, 2014

Energy, the economy and the environment — the three are inextricably linked. Energy prices impact the economy, but energy production impacts the environment.

This important interrelationship was understood to be fundamental to the formation of energy policy when each of us served as governor of California. It was true then, and it is true now. Because of this, effective energy policy in our state requires a careful balancing of coequal economic and environmental interests.

Perhaps no one appreciates the challenge of achieving this balance more than we do. As three former governors, each of us had to grapple with tough issues during our tenures, and our collective experience includes lessons learned from energy policy decisions. Based on this experience, we believe that California is at a pivotal moment when a long-term energy strategy is urgently needed — especially if California hopes to increase its economic competitiveness while achieving its clean energy and environmental goals. To do this, we encourage the development of a clear, coordinated and comprehensive energy plan for California.

Fact is, energy is the lifeblood of modern society, and energy reliability and affordability are critical to economic strength and security. It is no accident that the world’s largest economies, such as the United States, China and the European Union, are also the world’s largest energy consumers.

As a result, energy costs dramatically impact a region’s economic competitiveness. In this regard, new data from The Boston Consulting Group lists the U.S. as a “Rising Star” nation in their Global Manufacturing Cost-Competitiveness Index, citing as a key reason, “a big energy cost advantage that is largely driven by the 50 percent fall in natural-gas prices since large-scale production of U.S. shale gas began in 2005.” By contrast, China experienced a 138 percent increase in gas prices over this same period. And according to the Financial Times, EU electricity prices are 37 percent higher than in the U.S., resulting in “a steady stream of announcements from European manufacturers about plans to build new production facilities in the U.S.”

Increased production and use of domestic energy, including oil and natural gas, not only improves competitiveness and reduces energy costs, but a growing energy industry will itself fuel the economy and create jobs. And thanks to increased domestic production, the U.S. has reduced its reliance on imports from 60 percent in 2005 to less than 33 percent last year, dramatically reducing our dangerous dependency on imports from nations decidedly hostile to the U.S.
The U.S. is experiencing an energy renaissance and enhanced global competitiveness. California is proceeding with its energy transformation at an even more challenging pace than what’s happening on the national level.

California’s ambition is to be both a climate change policy leader and an economic leader. Since the 2002 adoption of Assembly Bill 1493 and the 2006 adoption of AB 32, the Golden State has implemented initiatives aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and encouraging new energy technologies. As a result, California now leads the nation in electricity generation from solar, geothermal and biomass, and is on pace to achieve a goal of generating 33 percent of the state’s electricity from renewable resources by 2020. We also lead the nation in sales of alternatively fueled vehicles and reformulated gasoline designed to reduce emissions.

Our state’s current climate policies favor alternative energies and their many benefits, but we must be mindful of their impacts on costs. Our policy choices are increasing the price of traditional sources of energy, which means California businesses and consumers pay more than those in neighboring states.

We must recognize, then, that while seeking technological innovation to reduce our dependency on them, conventional energy resources must play a vital role in controlling costs, maintaining reliability and supporting our state’s economy. The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation found that statewide, the oil and gas industry contributed $220 billion in direct economic activity and supported 468,000 jobs in 2012. This includes some of California’s highest-paying blue-collar jobs, which are especially needed in such regions as Southern California and the Central Valley. We can appreciate the importance of conventional resources, and at the same time encourage technological innovation, facilitate investment in research and development, and promote cost-effective cleaner alternatives.

The Legislature intended AB 32’s policy direction to be a source of economic benefit, not economic hardship. We need to be sure this intent becomes the reality. But a series of reports from nonpartisan organizations like the Little Hoover Commission, the Hoover Institution and the Legislative Analyst’s Office among others, all highlight the lack of an integrated state energy plan as a challenge we need to overcome. Such a plan is needed to provide the coordination, guidance and strategy to achieve our state’s environmental and economic goals.

A comprehensive plan will offer a pathway to accomplish these goals while capturing emerging energy opportunities, both conventional and renewable, for the benefit of California consumers. A good energy plan will also recognize that strong economic competition from other states and nations absolutely requires that California’s energy costs remain competitive for business.

Former Govs. George Deukmejian, Pete Wilson and Gray Davis are members of the Southern California Leadership Council, a nonpartisan, nonprofit public policy partnership.

Read more here: http://www.sacbee.com/2014/07/13/6548421/viewpoints-comprehensive-energy.html#storylink=cpy