



MINUTES

**California Film Commission Board Meeting
November 18, 2011
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Screen Actors Guild Conference Room
5757 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, California**

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

Hilary Armstrong
Bob Blumenfield
Steve Dayan
Lindy DeKoven
Wendy Greuel
Janet Knutsen
Mike Miller
Anthony Portantino
Tommy Ross
Howard Schwartz
Keith Weaver

EX-OFFICIOS/DESIGNEES IN ATTENDANCE

Ben Ho, State Fire Marshal's Office
Jim Fitzpatrick, California Film Commission
Amy Lemisch, California Film Commission

GUESTS

Al Adams, State Fire Marshal's Office
Paul Audley, FilmL.A.
Joel Ayala, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development
Eva Bitar, City of Los Angeles
Erik Deutsch, Excel PR
Ed Duffy, Teamsters Local 399
Jenn Heater, Screen Actors Guild
Katherine Hennigan, Office of Mayor Villaraigosa
Julianne Hines, Office of Assemblymember Anthony Portantino
Todd Lindgren, Film L.A.
Leah Medrano, CFC
Cindy Moore, State Fire Marshal's Office
Ilyanne Morden Kichaven, Screen Actors Guild
Michael Owens, Office of Assemblymember Bob Blumenfield
Eddie Robinson, City of West Hollywood
Philip Sokoloski, Film L.A.
Bill Thomas, AFTRA

I. CALL TO ORDER and WELCOME; INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS/GUESTS - Mike Miller

Chairman Mike Miller thanked SAG for the use of their meeting room; board member self introductions; introduction of new CFC member Assemblymember Bob Blumenfield.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Mike Miller

Motion to approve the Minutes from July 29, 2011 was made and unanimously approved.

III. NOMINATING COMMITTEE – PRESENTS NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS (POSITION OF CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR AND SECRETARY) - Janet Knutsen

Nominating Committee member Janet Knutsen presented the committee's recommendations for Officers of the Board. The Committee's nominations included: Keith Weaver for Chairperson; Steve Dayan for Vice Chair and Hilary Armstrong for Secretary.

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS - Mike Miller

Motion to approve the election of officers was made and unanimously approved.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Amy Lemisch

CFC Events / Marketing Update:

The California On Location Awards (COLAs) were held at the Biltmore on Oct. 16th. Event honors location professionals and production companies that keep filming projects in the state. In addition to industry recognition, government employees that provide a high level of assistance are awarded in city, county, state and federal categories.

Director Lemisch presented the Public Employee Awards. Steve Senet, encroachment engineer from Caltrans District 5 won the COLA for State Public Employee of the Year. Mr. Senet was honored for his professionalism and willingness to assist productions beyond his job description.

Ms. Lemisch also presented a special surprise award to State Fire Marshal Liaison Al Adams, who recently announced that he will retire next Spring. Since joining the Fire Marshall's Motion Picture & Entertainment Unit in 1995, Mr. Adams has made it easier for productions to shoot in California while protecting public safety.

The 6th annual California Film Commission VIP Breakfast will be held on Friday April 27th at The London West Hollywood.

- The reception is the CFC's primary marketing event of the year.
- Studio production and finance executives, producers and independent filmmakers, and commercial producers are invited to learn about our locations, services and incentive programs.
- 150 guests attended last year's reception.
- Since the CFC has no marketing budget, the event is supported by sponsorships. The partner hotel provides a significant discount and these discounted costs are paid for by the sponsor.
- Tiered sponsorship plan; Cast & Crew Payroll Service is the premier sponsor along with two partner level sponsors - Three Point Capital and Universal Studio Operations.

The following day, on April 29th the CFC will co-host the California Locations Trade Show with the FLICS. This will be the 4th year for this event which is also supported by sponsorships. This trade show targets Location Scouts and Managers, UPMs, Producers and Production Designers.

Association of Film Commissioners International (AFCI) Locations Trade Show

AFCI not partnering with PGA, no date or venue set, June likely.

Outreach – Public Engagements:

Aug. 12 – Southern California Leadership Network seminar – Ms. Lemisch gave a presentation on California's entertainment industry (membership group run by the LA Chamber for professional business development.)

Aug 24 – Mayor Villaraigosa's Round Table meeting on entertainment production (stakeholders were invited to discuss local filming issues with the Mayor. Ms. Lemisch was asked to give an update on the tax credit program.)

Sept. 8 – LA411 - Webinar Series – Ms. Lemisch participated in this webinar which spotlighted Television Production Incentives featuring Alaska, California, Georgia, British Columbia.

Oct. 6 – Ms. Lemisch was a panelist along with Assemblymember Felipe Fuentes and Councilmember Krekorian for a discussion of AB1069 hosted by the Sun Valley Chamber of commerce.

Oct. 27 - LA City Task Force – Ms Lemisch gave a presentation on the tax credit program.

Nov. 10 – Entertainment & Tourism Business management program at Cal State Fullerton – Ms. Lemisch participated in Advisory Board Meeting and roundtable meetings with students.

Incentive Program

Recently released incentive program projects include:

Rizzoli and Isles; Pretty Little Liars; Body of Proof; Torchwood; Justified; Cinema Verite; J. Edgar; In Time; Paranormal Activity 3; Moneyball; Drive;

Upcoming releases include:

The Muppets; We Bought a Zoo; Rampart

Program info:

- Total # of projects approved for year 3 = 36
- Total credit certs issued = \$75,047,550, to 47 projects (deferred benefit)
- Waitlist status – 114 projects

Legislative Summary

Oct. 9th – AB1069 was signed by the Governor.

Original bill was a 5 year extension to the existing program. The Senate Governance and Finance Committee amended the bill to include language requiring the LAO to conduct a study on the economic impact of the program. As part of the study they required the CFC to collect additional financial data from the applicants. Negotiations were ongoing until shortly before the end of the legislative session. In the end, the bill was reduced from a 5 year to a 1 year extension and the study requirement was removed. However, they did not remove the requirement for the CFC to collect additional data. CFC must amend the regulations to conform to the new requirements in statute.

San Francisco Expands Rebate Program

The City of San Francisco recently expanded its “Scene in San Francisco Rebate Program” to include reality TV and feature-length documentary production. The Program offers a refund of up to \$600,000 on fees paid to the City – permits, payroll taxes, police officers and use of City-owned locations.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors also voted to lower permit fees for films with budgets less than \$500,000. They also offer a Vendor Discount Program.

Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development

Governor Brown signed AB 29 which formally established the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (‘GO-BIZ’). In his signing message, the Governor called for greater collaboration amongst the departments and offices in state government engaged in economic development. He identified several departments to work directly with the Office of Business and Economic Development. The Governor’s Senior Advisor for Jobs, Mike Rossi, hosted a meeting in Oct. with all of these departments.

Small Business Loan Guarantee Program

Employment Training Panel

California Workforce Investment Board

Employment Development Department

Infrastructure Bank

Tourism Commission

Film Commission

Regulatory packet:

Director Lemisch reviewed the Film & TV Tax Credit Program proposed revised Regulations, Agreed Upon Procedures and forms with the board.

VI. BOARD APPROVAL OF PROPOSED REVISED REGULATIONS FILM & TV TAX CREDIT PROGRAM - Mike Miller

a) Call for motion to approve regulations package including: the text, the Application Form, Expenditure Summary Report, the Agreed Upon Procedures, and Appendices – A, B, and C.

Motion was unanimously approved.

b) Call for motion to authorize the Director of the CFC to move the package for publication and to submit it to the Office of Administrative Law for formal review and approval.

Motion was unanimously approved.

VII. OPERATIONS REPORT - Jim Fitzpatrick

Regional Film Partners (RFP):

Oakland needs to resubmit RFP application due to change in governance. RFP Humboldt County will also administer new RFP Del Norte County Film Commission from same office. San Luis Obispo County has an interim Film Commissioner from the CVB for the past year—meeting with County Board of Supervisors next Tuesday to map out new strategy for office. City of Ventura approved as a RFP.

State Properties:

Nelles—is still in escrow. The Juvenile Justice Division, which Nelles is currently under, is consolidating into a smaller unit. CFC is working with Dept. of Corrections have the Nelles film monitors reassigned to Dept. of Corrections in order to continue to use them as the Nelles film monitors.

Parks— 70 parks slated for closure soon. Administration of a few has been handed over to Federal Parks system.

Caltrans—Research at many vacant Caltrans owned houses in the Pasadena area continues to be conducted by Caltrans, CFC and SFM to determine viability for safe filming. The META training facility, underneath the 105 Freeway near LAX, reopened for filming after six month closure due to music video company damage not properly restored.

Correctional Facilities—Filming possibilities on case-by-case basis.

CFC participated in several meetings and conference calls to finalize MOU with Caltrans and CHP, still working on amending draft following Caltrans and BTH attorney comments and suggestions.

Filming Issues

CFC continues to attend LA County Film Coordination meetings, LA Co. Fire Dept stakeholders meetings and LA City Film Task Force meetings.

Production Alerts issued—No filming on freeways or ramps within a four mile radius of LAX from November 20, 2011, until January 4, 2012. No filming specifically on the EB 105 Freeway and ramps from El Segundo to the 405 Fwy. Working with FilmL.A. on downtown LA freeways and ramps closures to assist in its holiday film reductions.

CFC met with Consul General of Belgium which has a Belgian company working in CA affected by the FAA and subsequent CFC ban on the commercial use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (remote controlled devices). No FAA updates.

Federal Issues—Land use: California Energy Commission and BLM still proposing or allowing consideration of solar and wind power sites on or near traditional film sites.

VIII. PRESENTATION ON THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Joel Ayala, Director

The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development was created to coordinate economic development activities in the state. The office's mission is to facilitate and stimulate economic growth by attracting and retaining businesses in the state. The Office of Business and Economic Development serves as the lead entity for economic strategy and the marketing of California on issues relating to business development, private sector investment, and economic growth. The office makes recommendations to the Governor regarding policies, programs, and actions to advance statewide economic goals. The office assists employers, corporate executives and business owners who are considering California for business investment and expansion.

Mr. Ayala looks forward to working with the California Film Commission and the Board.

IX. NEW BUSINESS – Mike Miller

None

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathryn Hennigan introduced herself as the Senior Policy Director for L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's Office. She will be working on entertainment policies for the Mayor's Office.

XI. BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2012

Next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 3, 2012.

XII. ADJOURNMENT – Mike Miller

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.