



## MINUTES

### California Film Commission Board Meeting

May 14, 2013

10:30 p.m. – 12:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Room 113  
Sacramento, California

#### **COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Milton Jacobs  
Mike Gatto  
Steve Dayan  
Keith Weaver  
Mike Miller  
Morrie Goldman  
Anthony Portantino

#### **EX-OFFICIOS/DESIGNEES IN ATTENDANCE**

Roger Dhesi, Deputy Director, California State Parks  
Tonya Hoover, State Fire Marshal, State Fire Marshal's Office  
Amy Lemisch, Director, California Film Commission  
Ali F. Zaghari, Deputy District Director, Caltrans

#### **GUESTS**

Eve Honthaner, Special Consultant, CFC  
Beverly Lewis, Placer County Film Office  
Kevin Liao, Office of Assemblymember Mike Gatto  
Cindy Moore, State Fire Marshal's Office  
Michael Owens, Office of Assemblymember Bob Blumenfield  
David Phelps, AICP  
Kish Rajan, GO-Biz  
Jim Reikowsky, Vallejo/Solano County

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER and WELCOME; INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS/GUESTS - Keith Weaver**

Chairman Weaver welcomed board member Anthony Portantino (who served previously on the board as an Assemblymember) and new board member Assemblymember. Board Members and Guests self-introductions done.

#### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Keith Weaver**

Motion to approve the Minutes from Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> was made and unanimously approved.

#### **III. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GO-BIZ) - Kish Rajan, Director**

Since being appointed last October Mr. Rajan has met with CFC Director Amy Lemisch on several occasions. As of July 1<sup>st</sup> the CFC will be part of GO-Biz. In 2010 Governor Brown reassembled various business and economic offices which were spread out under various depts. so they would be under one dept. - GO-Biz. GO-Biz was created to offer support & structure and help grow the economy of California and improve jobs in this business climate.

The Governor's office knows the Entertainment Industry is one of California's signature industries more so than any other place in the country or world. The film Industry and related businesses bring jobs and income to California. The Governor's office is aware of the value and importance of the film industry and is committed to working to keep California competitive and to enhance its film industry.

#### **IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Amy Lemisch**

##### **CFC Staffing / Operations**

- Staff shortages continue due to excessive leave balances and PLP days. (1 unpaid day off each month). The PLP days will be ending as of June 30.
- May Budget Revise is currently ongoing
- Go-Biz – CFC transition to Go-Biz in progress; we are currently working on transfer of contracts from BTH to GO-Biz
- Nancy Stone (Tax Credit Program Director) will be returning to the CFC after a leave.
- Eve Honthamer is filling the duties of the vacant Deputy Director position; she is also taking on a heavy load with marketing for our event and acting as liaison with FLICS.

##### **CFC Events / Marketing -**

**April 19 – Commission VIP Breakfast** at The London West Hollywood - This reception is our primary marketing event of the year and is sponsored supported. This year we featured a panel discussion on the film "The Call", starring Halle Berry. This production received a tax credit and returned from Canada when we notified them that they cleared the waiting list.

**April 20 – CA Locations Conference** – The event has expanded into a conference with seminars and speakers and an event planner. The CA Locations Conference was sponsor supported and hosted by the FLICS organization. There were over 250 attendees (including location managers and scouts) who participated in this year's event.

##### **Upcoming Events:**

PGA Conference – June 8 - 9

AFCI – June 27, 28, 29

##### **Outreach – Public Engagements attended by Director Lemisch:**

Feb. - LA County board of supervisors committee – re: Grand Ave Park fees

Feb. 19 - Media Association of Orange County – guest speaker

Feb. 21 - Safety Advisory for Fire & FX in Entertainment @ Fox

(updates from each studio and FX groups, presentation on helicopter safety)

Feb. 22 – VICA State Office Holders Dinner

March 4 – Fire Safety Training – presentation

March 12 – Go-Biz Executive Round Table mtg. held at the DGA. -Participants: **Ed Duffy, Thom Davis**, IATSE Local 80, **Kathy Garmez** DGA, **Tom Inman** Studio Utility Employees Local 724, **Ilyanne Morden Kichaven** –SAGAFTRA , **Joe Chinese**, Entertainment Partners **Michael Moore** NBC Universal Studios Operations, **Melissa Patack** – MPAA, **Ty Warren**, Legendary Pictures, **Richard Wright**, Lakeshore Entertainment, **Gretchen Libby**, Industrial Light & Magic

March 21 - International Film & TV Finance Summit – Keynote

March 26 – VES – round table – background – discontent brewing among visual FX workers, VFX facilities that are having difficulty staying afloat. Protest at Oscars, *Life of Pi* incident.

April 19 – FLICS board meeting – joint marketing, education (FLICS manual), event planning

April 19 – KNX News Radio (Frank Mottek)

**Media** – relevant news articles handouts were reviewed

##### **Legislation:**

There has been quite a lot of activity by industry stakeholders (the Coalition) gearing up for next year's legislative session. In March and April, Ms. Lemisch was invited by the MPAA and then by the Unions and Guilds to present recommendations for program modifications so that they could begin outlining a strategy and legislative proposal.

The modifications discussed for consideration included – additional program funding, broadening eligibility to include high budget films and network and pay cable TV series, prioritizing allocations for relocating TV series, and adding a “bump” (additional credits) for productions that shoot outside of the 30-mile zone.

In addition, various administrative issues were discussed such as the lottery and the waiting list. It is my understanding that the coalition is working through these and perhaps other options, to determine the best ways to move forward. They believe timing is critical and are looking towards the 2014 leg session.

Ms. Lemisch will continue to provide technical expertise to our stakeholders as needed.

Spot bills:

AB3 – Bocanegra (spot)  
AB 286 – Nazarian (spot – remove cap on features)  
AB1189 – Nazarian (spot – 5 yrs, incremental increase)  
SB 317 – Calderon (spot)  
SB 317 – Lieu (commercials) (May 1 hearing – pulled by sponsor)  
AB 1413 – (tentative minimum tax)  
AB1142 – Bloom (smoking ban on beaches)  
AB 1317 – Frazier – (re-org)

**LAO Report** – before Jan. 2016 the LAO must issue a report evaluating the economic effects and administration of the tax credits. The CFC will be working with them to determine the type of program statistics they will need and in what format.

### **Tax Credit Application Period:**

Many projects moved off the waiting list this fiscal year but over 100 still remain. The waiting list will expire at the end of May and applications for the next fiscal year’s allocations will be accepted beginning on **June 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Several notifications were sent out with instructions for applying and they are posted on our website’s homepage and incentive page.

Lots of calls are being received in anticipation of the upcoming June 3<sup>rd</sup> application date.

As in past years applications are accepted **no earlier than 9:00 a.m.** and **no later than 3:00 p.m.** Applications are to be put into the lottery and applicants are notified within 24 hours as to their status.

### **Operations Report**

- “Need For Speed” – April filming / Coastal Commission
- Need to set meeting to discuss policies for filming in sensitive coastal zones. Rules are inconstant from one region to another; time table is very slow
- Cal State and UCLA campus issues (LA, Dominguez Hills)
- Malibu - Lane closures along PCH (EVE)
- Changing permit procedures at Mt. Tamalpais (EVE)
- USFS – staffing issues for the Monterey and Santa Lucia Ranger districts
- L.A. City issues - Grand Ave. Park and green bike lanes
- Online Permit System: Transition – Go-Biz, staying with Caltrans IT
- Production Alerts: Summertime Restrictions in effect for filming on Highway 1 in Monterey

## **V. OPERATIONS REPORT – Eve Honthaner**

### **MALIBU**

Before 2005, the Malibu Film Office worked with Caltrans to enforce their policy of lane closures along PCH when necessary during non-peak hours. In 2005, however, the Malibu City Council created an ordinance which stated that a film permit would **not** be granted if a PCH lane closure was required. Many people have spoken before the City Council to get this changed back to the way it was, but no change has been made.

As it’s permissible to park vehicles along the shoulder of PCH, productions often use it to park their vans and trucks, but if it’s a narrow or blind shoulder, it could cause an unsafe situation. In these situations, Caltrans would normally put up warning signs, intermittent traffic control or close the lane all together.

On May 6<sup>th</sup>, CFC Director Lemisch wrote a letter to Malibu City Manager, Jim Thorsen and sent him draft guidelines for safe filming along PCH during non-peak hours that was created by Caltrans. She has requested a meeting with him to discuss this matter further.

**MOUNT TAMALPAIS**

Mt. Tam is one of the most popular shooting sites in the Bay Area, but they don't have enough staff to accommodate film permits. They're currently asking for a 2-week lead time for a permit, and because the turnaround is so long and location managers are filing for permits "just in case" – 50% of them end up getting canceled.

Earlier in the year, a representative from Parks (Dave Matthews) was tasked with working out a solution to these and other challenges of filming on Mt. Tam. He met with a delegation of local location managers and the San Francisco film commissioner, Susannah Robbins. The result was the development of an "issue paper" that outlines multiple proposals, including a 4-day turnaround for permits, an expanded pool of rangers, the streamlining of the permit process, opening a road (Pantol) that has been closed to filming and finding a way to support a full-time monitor.

Two months ago, the issue paper was submitted to District Supervisor, Danita Rodriguez, and there has been no feedback as of yet. The CFC will continue to monitor this filming issue.

**VI. REGIONAL FILM OFFICE REPORT – PLACER COUNTY – Beverly Lewis, Film Commissioner**

Placer County is easily accessed by two major airports. The Sacramento International Airport to the west is a 40 minute drive to Auburn, the county seat nestled in the Sierra Nevada foothills; and the Reno - Tahoe International Airport to the east is just a 55 minute drive to Tahoe's North Shore

Because of its diversified terrain and distinct seasons, Lake Tahoe has been an appealing setting for films (*True Lies, Jack Frost, & The Deep End*), TV shows (*Bonanza*) and numerous commercials. 50 % of their production is from major print and catalog shoots; with 50 to 60% of our production happening n the Tahoe area. Commercials used to tip this balance. There has been an increase in TV Reality shows in the last few years.

Placer County has seen the benefits of the California State Film & Television Tax Credit program, Placer County has had portions of four productions filmed on location since the program began: Jackass 3, HBO's Cinema Verite, The Muppets, and Her (an unreleased and tentatively titled Spike Jones film starring Joaquin Phoenix).

**VII. NEW BUSINESS – Keith Weaver**

None

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**IX. BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2013:**

August 9, 2013 (L.A.)  
November 8, 2013 (L.A.)

**X. ADJOURNMENT – Keith Weaver**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.