



MINUTES

**California Film Commission Board Meeting
July 22, 2016
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
SAG-AFTRA Conference Room
Los Angeles, California**

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ayuko Babu
Fred Baron
Alexander de Ocampo
Steve Dayan
Chris Essel
Janet Knutsen
Fiona Ma
Bob Nelson
Michael Nyman
Anthony Portantino

EX-OFFICIOS/DESIGNEES IN ATTENDANCE

Amy Lemisch, Director, California Film Commission
Eve Honthaner, Deputy Director, California Film Commission
Paul Eck, Division Chief, State Fire Marshal's Office

GUESTS

Bill Anderson, IFTA
Matt Antonucci, CSATF
Janice Arrington, OC Film Commission
Bill Bartels, Ventura County Film Commission
Eva Bitar, L.A. City
Sheri Davis, Big Bear Lake Film Office
Erik Deutsch, Excel PR
Ed Duffy, Teamsters 399
Kathy Garmezy, DGA
Adam Graddick, CFC
Eric Klosterman, CFC
Lauren Mains, Office of Sen Ben Allen
Karen Marshall, COLA
Leah Medrano, CFC
Ilyanne Morden Kichaven, SAG-AFTRA
Craig Sap, State Parks
Phillip Sokolowski, FilmL.A.
Nancy Stone, California Film Commission
Charla Teeters, Imperial County Film Commission
Michael Walbrecht, Warner Bros.

I. CALL TO ORDER and WELCOME; INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS/GUESTS - Steve Dayan, Chair

Chairman Dayan welcomed board members and guests followed by self-introductions

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Steve Dayan

Motion to approve the Minutes from March 16, 2016 was made and approved unanimously.

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Amy Lemisch

Office Expansion / Staffing – The CFC has added a number of staff members but we're still looking to fill a few positions - one additional tax credit program analyst and two office assistants. A new lead permit

coordinator will be starting on August 1st. An IT Programmer has been hired and will work out of the GO-Biz offices in Sacramento. A temporary 8-month position was created to expand and improve the photo content in CinemaScout.

Legislative– The CFC is tracking the following bills:
AB 1941 (Lopez) waiting for Senate floor vote
SB 1062 – Elephants (Lara) waiting for Assembly floor vote

Outreach – Public Engagements:

Coming up:
AICP Next Awards – July 27th
Made in Hollywood Honors – Sept. 7
COLAs – Nov. 13 - Beverly Hilton Hotel
AFM – Nov.
Focus London – Dec. (waiting on approval)

Past engagements:
AFCI – (April)
San Luis Obispo – Tourism education seminar (Feb.)
Santa Clarita Valley Economic Development Corp - State of the Film/TV Industry in CA – (March 2016)
Digital Hollywood Conference at the Skirball – (May) panelist – overview of production in California
Fire Safety Officer Training Class – presentation (April)

Director Lemisch has been joining FilmL.A. for a number of meetings with various companies to be sure they know about the services both organizations can offer.

Meetings:
Skydance Media / Amazon / Starz / Dick Clark Productions / Netflix

Outreach:
Marin County – *13 Reasons Why*, tax credit project, is filming out of the zone. CFC is doing outreach and briefing all City Managers in cities in Marin County on the Model Film Ordinance and best practices.

Marketing:

Location International Magazine 2016
Location California – publish date - April 2017
Variety – special California issue – Oct. 2016, this will coincide with the Carmel Film Festival

Media – the board should have received a link to our aggregated news summary

Progress Report – In August, the CFC will publish the annual Progress Report on the tax credit programs. This will be distributed directly to the legislature and our stakeholders as well as to the media. For those board members that are new, the CFC began issuing this report in 2010 following the first year of the tax credit program to provide the legislature, state government staff and the public with an assessment of the Program's economic benefits along with statistical information.

OAL Report – OAL has not yet indicated when their report will be released.

IV. OPERATIONS REPORT – Eve Honthaner, Deputy Director

Film in California Conference – The conference is co-hosted with FLICS each year – was held on Saturday, May 21st, and it was our most successful event to date. Garry Marshall gave the keynote, and there were six panels (CA tax credit film *CHiPs* with Dax Shepard, Creating Smoother-running Locations with Smarter Community Relations, Making of the Film *Tangerine*, Making Commercials in the Digital Age, Real-World Solutions for Achieving Inclusion, and the Hollywood Reporter (our media partner) held a panel on the State of Production). Mayor Eric Garcetti gave welcome remarks and introduced Jamie Lee Curtis who presented the inaugural California Golden Slate award to producer/director/writer Ryan Murphy.

Over 600 people attended the conference, representing professionals from all facets of the industry. Sponsors included CAPS Payroll, Fox Broadcasting, NBC/Universal, Santa Clarita Studios, Disney's Golden Oak Ranch and Cinelease.

Made in Hollywood Honors – This semi-annual event acknowledges Oscar and Emmy-nominated projects made in California will be held on September 7th.

Fire Safety - Deputy State Fire Marshal, Ramiro Rodriguez will hold a fire safety training class in Porterville from August 16th-18th. Deputy Director Honthaner will be a guest speaker at this training class.

State Parks - New guidelines for filming in state parks have been added to the website. CFC is in discussion with State Parks Director Lisa Mangat about an assigned state parks staff member who will be our point person.

Caltrans - CFC recently met with Caltrans and published their guidelines for the use of drones over Caltrans property.

FAA - The FAA has issued regulations pertaining to the commercial use of small UAS (drones) which go into effect in late August. There are a lot of questions about the new rules and even some safety concerns. Deputy Director Honthaner has been part of a small group that's coordinating a meeting on August 11th with representatives from the FAA, several drone operators, various industry representatives as well as state, county and city law and fire enforcement, Caltrans, Parks, the MPAA, Contract Services, the AICP, LAPD and County air support personnel and FilmL.A.

Location Library - Our temporary photo editor staff has added a great deal of new and improved photo coverage to our online location library, CinemaScout for all state property and other public land agencies.

With the increase of production lately, there's been a large increase of requests for marketing residential property and uploads of commercial and public property to CinemaScout.

California On Location Awards (the COLAs) - Sunday, November 13th at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. In addition to honoring the many production professionals we all work with each day, the event recognizes city, county, state and federal employees for their service to filming activities in California. Each year, the CFC nominates at least one of our state-partner liaisons.

FLICS will also be honoring CFC Director Amy Lemisch with their COLA Signature Award. This award is not presented yearly – only when inspired by an individual or group of individuals who have gone above and beyond to promote and to keep film production in California (such as the members of the California Film & Television Production Alliance who received the award a few years ago).

V. TAX CREDIT PROGRAM REPORT – Nancy Stone, Tax Credit Program Director

The CFC began Program 2.0 operating under Emergency Regulations, which were re-adopted October 15, 2015 and re-adopted for a second time on January 7, 2016. The proposed permanent regulations for AB1839 underwent a 45-day comment period, which ended Feb. 29th. The CFC board voted to approve the permanent regulations, after which they were approved by our agency, GO-Biz. The regulatory packet was submitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL), and issued a certificate of compliance and approval of our permanent regulations and forms on May 11, 2016.

As a result, first year projects were operating under different sets of regulations depending upon when they were admitted into the program.

The key regulatory changes had to do with the definition of an “approved facility” and an “independent film”, percentage or “bonus” points available for spending in visual effects and outside the LA zone (which effect the Jobs Ratio), prioritization parameters for TV series in subsequent seasons, and the amount of the financial contribution for the career readiness program.

This year, and the next three years thereafter, \$330 million dollars in tax credits are available, which is divided into dedicated funding categories as follows:

- 40% (\$132M) for Television productions
- 35% (\$115.5M) for Features
- 20% (\$66M) for relocating TV series
- 5% (\$16.5M) for Independent Films

There are 55 projects in the program, with an estimated aggregate direct spend of \$1.5 Billion dollars, which includes \$600 million in estimated wages. The program has reserved tax credits for 13 Feature films, 5 independent films, 18 TV series, 5 relocating TV series, 8 pilots, 5 mini-series, and 1 MOW.

Ms. Stone shared a selection of slides from the Progress Report showing aggregate data for each program year.

All accepted applicants must participate in career based learning and training programs that have been approved by the CFC. The structure for participation was created after extensive collaboration with the California Department of Education and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

To meet the Career Readiness requirement, applicants may choose a method of participation, including Paid Internship, Classroom Workshop, Studio Employment and Professional Skills Tours, Faculty Externship, or Financial Contributions.

The CFC is also engaged in outreach to non-profits and other organizations engaged in learning opportunities for high school and post-high school students, and this includes The Los Angeles Fund for Public Education.

VI. REGIONAL FILM OFFICE REPORT – Ventura County – Bill Bartels, Film Liaison

Ventura County Film Commission is under the Economic Development Collaborative of Ventura County.

Ventura County is located on California's Pacific coast about 65 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles and covers 1,845 square miles.

Film Locations of interest include: Camarillo Ranch, Point Mugu State Beach, Anacopa Island, Mission San Buenaventura, Filmore and Western Railroad and Santa Monica National Mountains.

There were 1,964 days of permitted filming in Ventura County in 2015 on a total of 847 projects, according to data compiled by the commission. More than half were in unincorporated areas. Simi Valley, Ventura and Thousand Oaks were the cities with the most film activity.

The total estimated economic impact of 2015 filming was about \$39 million.

VII. NEW BUSINESS – Steve Dayan, Chair

None

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IX. BOARD MEETINGS SCHEDULE FOR 2016:

November 4th Los Angeles (SAG-AFTRA Conference Room)

X. ADJOURNMENT – Steve Dayan, Chair

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.