

Gladys Coelho Baisa was born on August 13, 1940 on the Island of Maui, Hawaii. She grew up in the plantation camps and can remember a time when no door was locked and no one was a stranger. She lost her father at an early age was raised by her mother alone. Gladys graduated from Maui High School in 1958, where she was class valedictorian and a member of the National Honor Society. Two years later she graduated as a Practical Licensed Nurse from the St. Francis School of Nursing and began her illustrious career as a Licensed Practical Nurse and then a private duty nurse.

In 1967, having taken additional education at Maui Technical School in the accounting program, she began at the Maui Memorial Medical Center in the billing department. Within two years, Gladys was recruited to join the Maui Economic Opportunity (MEO) Inc., where she has been in a leadership position for 36 years and Executive Director for 21 years.

Gladys has demonstrated the highest qualities of leadership since taking the reins of MEO in 1984. When she became Executive Director, MEO had a budget of \$1.9 million and operated 17 programs under three major categories: the Community Services Block Grants, Head Start, and County of Maui Grants. There were eight key staff members and seven supervisors. Today, MEO expects to serve over 20,000 unduplicated clients through its programs and community partnerships and has 272 employees and a budget of \$14.5 million.

Additionally, in 2003, the National Community Action Partnership presented Gladys and MEO with its inaugural "Award of Excellence in Community Action", one of only four agencies to be so honored out of over 1,100 community action agencies in the nation.

Today, under Gladys' vision and enthusiasm, MEO offers job training, microenterprise business development, family development programs, housing assistance, welfare to work opportunities, Head Start, senior citizen programs, medical and life sustaining transportation, farmworker employment and training programs, immigrant acculturation, food distribution to those in need, youth programs, reintegration of inmates back into the community, and many other innovative and far reaching programs that have been incorporated into government operations and continue to serve the community.

Gladys wasn't content with just building up MEO. She saw a need to develop the not for profit sector on Maui and took an active role in the creation of the Maui Non-Profit Directors Association. This organization of over 50 dues paying members has become an important force in public policy discussions affecting Maui County, and a forum for training and information designed to strengthen each agency in their mission.

For almost four decades Gladys has selflessly given her passion, energy, and unending desire to assist the people of Maui and Hawaii. She has long been a leading source of "best practices" management and her colleagues honored her with their very first "Executive Director of the Year" award.

Gladys will soon retire from MEO for well-deserved rest and time with her family. I know this will be merely an informal retirement and she will continue to stay involved in assisting the Maui community and will continue to live by MEO's motto: "Helping People. Changing Lives."

Hauli La Hanau, Gladys, and many many more!

MEMORANDUM OF FORT WORTH CITY COUNCIL MEMBER CHUCK SILCOX

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD the following memorandum from Fort Worth City Council Member Chuck Silcox to the Mayor of Fort Worth and Council Members dated July 5, 2005. In the memorandum, Councilman Silcox indicates his desire for the successful implementation of the Trinity River Vision project in Fort Worth, Texas.

MEMO

JULY 5, 2005.

To: Mayor & Council Members,

From: Chuck Silcox,

Re: Trip to Washington, DC, June 21-23.

On June 21, I flew to Washington, DC for a series of meetings regarding the Trinity River and Highway 121 projects. Initially, let me report that the meetings went quite well. My appreciation to Congresswoman Kay Granger and her staff for all they did to arrange the schedule for me. I was accompanied with Reid Rector, Robert Head (Ms. Granger's Deputy Chief of Staff) and Pete Rose.

Wednesday, June 22, began with a meeting with Congresswoman Granger to discuss the agenda and key issues relative to the Trinity River and Highway 121 projects. This meeting went well, and I left there very comfortable that in the sense that Congresswoman Granger's office will continue to work very closely with us in support of our federal legislative agenda, to include the successful implementation of the Trinity River Plan and the Highway 121 projects. In addition, we also discussed, in general terms, the importance of maintaining the Wright Amendment and the current status of the B-36 project as affected by a lack of funding to retain the B-36 in Fort Worth.

Following the above meeting, we met with senior staff at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps was represented by Steve Stockton, Deputy Director of Civil Works, Gary Leow, Director of Civil Works Program Integration Division and John Meador, Civil Works Deputy, Southwestern Division. Several key points were discussed during this meeting:

1. The Corps staff stressed that while the key underlying need for the TRV was and remains flood control and repair of the levees in the area, this type of project is becoming more and more common in the Corps' work, i.e., combining economic development and flood control issues. In the terms of flood control, Corps staff emphasized that upstream development has significantly affected downstream drainage and flooding issues. In addition, the existing levees have "settled," a condition that also contributes to the flooding potential. The Trinity River project, with its bypass channel, would appropriately address these issues.

2. Regarding environmental issues associated with the Trinity River development, Corps staff indicated that the initial environmental impact statement is in line and that their initial review does not reveal any significant environmental problems. However, they stated that approximately \$25 million has been allocated for dealing with any issues that might arise.

3. Regarding the location of businesses within the Trinity River project area, Corps staff stated that the only property that would be obtained would be that property necessary for the bypass channel and that no other property would be sought.

4. Regarding increases in project costs (\$360 million to \$435 million), it was explained that this is primarily due to "contingency" costs being added to insure that unanticipated costs are adequately covered.

5. These issues and any other relevant issues will be addressed at public meetings currently scheduled for July 26 and 27. It is my intent to see that these meetings are publicized so that the public can attend, learn about this project and raise any relevant questions they may have.

We then met with staff from the Federal Highway Administration to discuss the SH-121 project. Attending for the FHWA were Charles Nottingham, Associate Administrator for Policy and Government Affairs, Sal Deocampo of the Texas Division (by telephone), Ruth Rentch of the Office of Environmental Planning, Jennifer Southwick, a Special Assistant for Policy and Governmental Affairs and Marc Ott (by telephone). As in the case of the meeting with the Corps of Engineers, several key issues were discussed:

1. The plan for groundbreaking in late 2005 was discussed and it was emphasized that City intended to stay on schedule.

2. With the revised cost estimates, as all parties investigate opportunities for refinement of the cost estimates, it is the City's strong intent not to compromise the quality of the project.

3. It was noted that NTTA should, within 90 days, be able to better understand the cost increases for the project. In this regard, it was noted that the City should be in close contact with the NTTA to urge favorable action relative to dealing with any cost increases. Marc Ott indicated that a letter from the Mayor was being forwarded to the NTTA addressing the cost issue.

4. Relative to these costs issues, FHWA staff indicated that costs cannot be finalized until the Record of Decision has been issued as the Record will play a significant role in final cost determinations. Now that the ROD has been issued, FHWA staff felt that the cost related issues would be resolved as design work progresses.

These meetings with Congresswoman Granger, the Corps and the FHWA were very informative. As a result of attending these meetings, I am confident that we can successfully address the relevant issues affecting the Trinity River and SH-121 projects.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION ACT OF 2005

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce the Environmental Restoration Act of 2005. I am joined in the introduction by Representatives MURTHA, ENGLISH, HART and PETERSON of Pennsylvania.

It is fitting that this bill be introduced on the same day that the House will pass comprehensive energy policy legislation. This bill has the dual benefit of cleaning up a terrible environmental and health situation at the same time that it increases our energy independence.