

South Bay Cities Council of Governments  
Thursday, January 26, 2006  
Lomita City Hall – Lomita, California

**Chair Susan Dever called the meeting of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments to order at 7:10 p.m. In attendance were the following members:**

Harold Williams, Carson  
Michael Keegan, Hermosa Beach  
Susan Dever, Lomita  
Jim Aldinger, Manhattan Beach  
John Parsons, Redondo Beach  
Judy Mitchell, Rolling Hills Estates

Eric Busch, El Segundo  
R. Pullen-Miles, Lawndale  
Barry Waite, Lomita  
Dwight Abbott, Palos Verdes Estates  
Don Szerlip, Redondo Beach

Also in attendance were the following persons:

Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG Exec. Director  
Ann Marie Wallace, League of California Cities  
Renee Berlin, MTA  
Claudette Moody, Deputy, Pam O'Connor  
Darin Chidsey, SCAG  
David Madsen, AQMD

Merna Marshall, SBCCOG  
Diane Cameron, SBCCOG  
Pam O'Connor, MTA Board Member  
Jeff Pletyak, LACDWP  
Tracy Young, Comcast/CNN  
Terisa Price, Redondo Beach

**Flag Salute - led by Chair Susan Dever**

**Self-Introductions**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS OF ANY CHANGES TO THE AGENDA – none**

**Motion to accept and file report of City Clerk of Torrance on Posting of the Agenda**

**MOTION** by Board Member Aldinger, seconded by Board Member Szerlip, to accept the posting of the meeting in the City of Lomita. No objection. So ordered.

**Changes in Agenda: No changes.**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**MOTION** by Board Member Szerlip seconded by Board Member Aldinger, to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted. All Ayes. So ordered.

**A. November 2005 Board Meeting Minutes – Approve**

**B. Mid-year Financial Report – Approve**

**C. Report of Time Critical Action Taken by Steering Committee – Receive and file**

**PRESENTATION RE: AMERICA'S PORT– L.A. Councilwoman Janice Hahn**

Councilwoman Hahn, City of Los Angeles, referring to the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach as "America's Port" because of the vast impact it has on America, receiving close to 45% of all trade that comes into the USA; the fact that over 260,000 jobs in So. California are directly related to the port and nationally, it accounts for a million jobs; besides cargo, there are about a million passengers who embark and disembark at the port; 7.5 million containers come through the LA. side annually (Long Beach 6 million). She said that everybody who projects growth says this will triple in the next 20 years—without any improvements—no matter what is going on in the economy, it does not slow down.

Councilwoman Hahn pointed out that we already know what happens if the port shuts down because of the labor dispute in 2002 when all ports on the west coast shut down for 10 days. She pointed out that because it was pre-planned, some shipping companies made other arrangements but the cost to the

local economy was \$2 billion a day and there was a global effect as well. She noted that if there were a disaster, the hit would be huge locally, nationally and globally, and she believes that if the terrorists wanted to affect the global economy, one way would be to knock out America's Port .

Councilwoman Hahn explained how the program called "Pier Pass" was started and asked for support from the SBCCOG in getting help from legislature regarding port security. She explain the bills that would change how homeland security is funded based on threat, vulnerability and consequence, and explained the various ways the port is doing damage to the environment and to our health, noting that the port is called the "diesel death zone" causing more cancer and asthma than anywhere else in the basin, with ships contributing 20% of all the pollution in the LA basin.

In response to Board Member Szerlip's inquiry regarding Councilwoman Hahn's position regarding the "on-dock" or "near-dock" rail and what she is planning to do to help shepherd its completion, Ms. Hahn said she is pushing "on dock" rail and, thus, is not supporting near-dock rail at this time, because while the near-dock facility is supposed to take a million trucks off the freeway, it will put them into Wilmington, a community that she represents and she said she will not support it until she is convinced that the in-off is not located on the Wilmington side—preferring to see a designated off-ramp on the Terminal Island facility.

In response to Board Member Aldinger's inquiry regarding her position on the upcoming bond measures, Ms. Hahn stated that Los Angeles is watching the measures at this point and she recommended that the COG's special interests watch and stay involved. She said there is clearly not enough money included for port security, reiterating that all of the infrastructure is not worth anything if there's no security.

In response to Board Member Parson's inquiry regarding the COG's fight to see another seat on the AQMD Board and why the Los Angeles City Council has not addressed the issue, Ms. Hahn stated that she is in favor of the measure and, while she is not sure of the process, she agreed to look into the matter and get back to the COG.

In response to Board Member Witkowsky's inquiry regarding congestion caused by trucks on the Vincent Thomas Bridge, Ms. Hahn said that both bridges are at capacity and will be addressed by the infrastructure funding.

In response to Board Member Mitchell's inquiry regarding whether the bond infrastructure monies should be spent on particular projects, Ms. Hahn said that as chair of the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority, they have taken on the mission to reduce truck trips and clean the air—with the near-dock facility and shuttle train project being very important. Also, the Terminal Island Freeway (SR 47) is a 6-lane truck expressway that would go from Terminal Island to PCH on Alameda, meaning they would avoid the bridges and side streets. There are 5 projects proposed for the infrastructure bond that would move goods, take trucks off freeways and reduce emissions.

Board Member Mitchell reported that she has recently been appointed to an Infrastructure Tax Commission of the League of California Cities which was formed to work with the Governor to help determine the best use of the funds.

Jacki Bacharach reported on what the COG is doing:

- 1) annual legislative agenda includes federal action for ship air pollution control, so the LA city resolution would have already had action by the COG;
- 2) COG needs help from the City of Los Angeles in supporting items on the legislative agenda;
- 3) Requests to SCAG for money to study the 110 freeway and the impact of the ports' growth on the traffic through our communities. This **year for the first-time ever, on the 06-07 OWP SBCCOG will receive** \$135,000 to study the 110 freeway and the goods movement impact and it would be helpful to work with LA to leverage that money in a way to help everyone.

In response to Board Member Williams' inquiry whether the suspect containers from the port are coming into the Dominguez and Santa Fe yard which is near LA Unified's proposed site for a new school, Ms. Hahn responded that, unfortunately, that is where they are taken. He said he remembered that when the Alameda Corridor was sold to Carson in the 80's they were told that the things happening now

would not happen and he believes that they will never improve the infrastructure enough to improve pollution.—Susan Dever said it is most important for the COG to work with Janice Hahn's office to work on these items together.

**PRESENTATION RE: Transit in the South Bay – Today and Plans for the Future – Terisa Price**

Terisa Price reported on Transit in the South Bay, including but not limited to an update on the 439 takeover; the success of Beach Cities Transit on its anniversary in January; and reconfiguration of the MTA system and the impending takeovers by other agencies.

Signal Synchronization Project Update – L.A. County Dept. of Public Works staff Jeffrey Pletyak reported on the status of several signal synchronization program projects as outlined in his report (copy on file).

In response to questions Parsons: Most of the PCH signals are maintained by CALTRANS and they are doing their own systems; answer: the plan is to merge the two systems and partnering with them and the City of LA on the information exchange network.

Cities are asked to contact the representatives at CALTRANS regarding their complaints.

Busch: 51 intersections? Timeframe and how many have been done to date? 2 pieces; software has been procured and it is ready to go; second is communication system that establishes the link; the contract is being executed for wireless technology and should be online by summer.

The unique software will enhance the ability for all agencies to coordinate their traffic management plans.

Jacki: when signal synchronization timing is done, can they be "on demand"?

They try to balance between the main street and side street traffic.

**South Coast Air Quality Management District (David Madsen)**

David Madsen distributed the monthly report and commented on several items, including:

- The California Resources Board hearing on railroad MOU to mitigate emissions from railroads;
- AQMD governing board met in October and announced the AQMD port initiatives;
- District is sponsoring an asthma conference to help educate and provide information on the impacts asthma has on children in LA and the Southern California region;

**REPORTS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

**Legislative Committee Report**

**Annual Legislative Agenda – Recommended Action: Approve**

Board Member Mitchell explained that the new legislative agenda tracks last year's agenda; that there are no major changes with the exception of the organization of the agenda, which has been changed to include new sections 9 and 10, "telecommunications" and "area code", in order to better track legislation in these areas.

**MOTION** by Board Member Szerlip, seconded by Board Member Abbott, to approve the legislative agenda as presented.

In response to Board Member Aldinger's request for an explanation of the term "underfunded", Board Member Parsons explained that some projects receive some funding but not enough to pay for it in its entirety and, thus, it is underfunded as opposed to unfunded.

Jacki Bacharach asked for approval of the legislative agenda as presented, noting that two items need to be considered for addition to the agenda at a future date (LA school District and traffic calming measures), which were not on the agenda.

In response to Board Member Witkowsky's recommendation to add something about the port in Section 11 under homeland security. It was the consensus of the Board to bring this and any other additional items back for consideration at a future date.

VOTE: All Ayes. So ordered.

Consideration of Support of Resolution re: LAUSD Governance

Jacki Bacharach explained that the resolution was adopted by the Contract Cities Association, noting the concern with the reorganization proposed by L.A. Mayor Villaraigosa being that it would disenfranchise some cities because they would not be able to elect board representatives from their cities. It was pointed out that four of the affected cities are members of the COG: LA, Lomita, Carson, Gardena, and Contract Cities is asking the SBCCOG to support the resolution.

**MOTION** by Board Member Keegan, seconded by Board Member Aldinger, to support the resolution adopted by the Contract Cities Association. All ayes. So ordered.

AQMD Board Composition Change Update

Board Member Aldinger reported that while in Sacramento, they received a commitment from Assemblyman Lieu to introduce the bill. He thanked Claudette Moody for working hard to get Los Angeles to get it through their committee and, with the help promised by Janice Hahn, it looks like it may happen. He noted that while this will allow the West Side COG and several others to come on board, this is still an uphill battle with several entities and it will take a huge effort to get it through. We are still trying to get legislators to co-author the bill, with about a month left to determine what committees it will go through.

Claudette Moody said she has talked with the staff at various assembly offices.

Jacki Bacharach noted that while Assemblyman Lieu has agreed to sponsor and author the bill, it still does not have a number. She noted that Claudette Moody has done a lot of the ground work but the next phase will be elected-to-elected. She noted that Contract Cities will be taking action at the Resolutions Committee on supporting or opposing this measure and while a resolution has been sent to them expressing the COGs support, the AQMD has sent them a resolution in opposition. She said it is important to have representation at the meeting in order to show how important this issue is to the COG and noted that the Resolutions Committee, which is where this matter will be heard on February 1<sup>st</sup>, is chaired by MarkWaronek.

Claudette Moody said it will be important to get notice to the partnering COGs and she said she would send them the resolution.

Board Member Parsons reported that the Contract Cities had a meeting in Sacramento a couple of weeks ago and thanked Claudette Moody for setting up a lot of meetings while there.

Jim Aldinger noted that this is just the beginning and more trips to Sacramento will be needed.

Area Code

Jacki Bacharach reported that the County has filed their petition for modification asking that the creation of the overlay be reversed because there are 3 million numbers available. The PUC does not believe that it is true and, while they agreed that we had good ideas, they said they would be looked at for the next area code. She added that responses to comments are due by February 9<sup>th</sup>.

An FCC issue regarding the Telephone Connection and 10-digit dialing instead of 11-digit dialing was also heard; the FCC doesn't seem to be supportive. Board Member Parsons said the PUC said they retain the right for future overlays to make them 10-digits, but ours would always remain 11-digits.

### Ethics Training

Jacki Bacharach said she was asked for information on AB 1234 (ethics) and the COG's legal counsel Mike Jenkins felt very strongly that 1) it should be done through your own city and not at the COG level; and 2) he said the League will be doing trainings; 3) on the League's website is a fact sheet for Q&A.

### Energy Projects Update

Jacki Bacharach reported on Energy Efficiency program with cities and center activities, including:

- A representative from one of the utilities visited the Center and they did not know anything about the Center; yesterday was the first of the "IOU" representatives meetings and the Center is committed to meeting quarterly to let IOU representatives working in the South Bay know what's going on. They look forward to training the Center's staff on what they do.
- Each city will be sent a package on the joint procurement program, starting off with the ability to buy a vendormiser, which has a payback in cost and energy savings of 3-4 months; price would be \$140 and a commitment has been made from the vendor for a \$120 with a 50% rebate from Edison. Everyone is asked to tell their school districts and libraries because the bigger the order the better the price. She said Edison has agreed that, if this is successful, they will fund more projects of this type so it is important for everyone to participate.
- She will ask the Steering Committee to hear the issues of the actual purchase of the VendorMisers and how they will be ordered.

### Livable Communities

Jacki Bacharach reported that monies have been received from SCAG for Phase II, to study El Segundo downtown and a corridor; and funding has been put in for 06-07 OWP which will be Phase III, which will finalize all corridor studies and come up with a guideline booklet for all cities; Due to concern of sufficient funding from SCAG, SBCCOG staff went to MTA and Renee Berlin was great about saying that she could possibly help find money; SCAG funding did come through. The study is focusing on how to create livable communities in lower transit communities which is something no one else is doing..

## **AGENCY REPORTS**

### League of California Cities (Ann Marie Wallace)

Ann Marie Wallace distributed a newsletter and reported on several issues, including but not limited to:

- AB 1234: Western Cities centerfold is all about the Ethics Code; there are other new laws (AB 11 which affects compensation); one word of caution: the AG's office has not decided how to enforce AB 1234; there are no regulations yet. The AG will come out with regulations and until then no one knows what the training should consist of.
- March 2<sup>nd</sup> General Membership meeting will be on this subject and this is the first opportunity to get training; they are hopeful that the regulations will be available by this time.
- FAQs are on the website from the "Institute for Local Self Government".
- She distributed a list of experts on behalf of the South Bay Cities COG;
- Governor's office has offered to do a briefing on his infrastructure proposals and it is open to all public officials, commissioners and city staff. This is on the normal LA Division meeting night and the monthly meeting will be changed to February 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Ann Marie explained that the author of the legislation is DeLaTorre, a former councilman from South Gate who fought corruption and he feels that the voters in his town sent him to Sacramento to clean up the corruption in their town.

### Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Pam O'Connor)

Pam O'Connor reported on some MTA issues, including but not limited to:

- The item reported on by Terisa Price was postponed to February, with a strong voice on the Board that if the transit provided by other operators was not there what would MTA do? so she will continue to work on it;
- Action items at today's Board meeting include: adoption of a program to help smaller cities utilize the

surface transportation program local funds more effectively;

- The LRTP is moving forward and the modeling that is required to analyze performance is very involved and the Board had asked staff to ensure they included criteria regarding goods movement in the most objective way; the goal is to return to the Board in March; the draft document will probably come out in late Spring;
- The newsletter will come out next week, providing a report from the Legislative Analyst's office on the reauthorization bill and the updated map for the metro system;

Pam O'Connor offered to put together a report for cities to talk about the kind of coordination that help toward reducing traffic congestion and making streets better to present to the council and citizens;

Board Member Bush reported that the Local Government and Business Advisory Group—has several openings because several members were not participating and they were removed from the Group.

### **SCAG Committees**

#### Transportation and Communication (Don Szerlip, Jim Aldinger)

Board Member Szerlip stated that this past month they were informed about the Governor's proposals and a joint meeting was held with all committees to discuss reform to CEQA.

Board Member Aldinger reported that:

- the subregional audits are taking place, and SCAG has taken a position that they will let CALTRANS perform the audits first instead of SCAG doing it first followed by CALTRANS;
- SCAG was asked for input by the federal government, giving us an opportunity to ask for controls over the emissions on boats, planes and everything else that affects pollution. He noted that this was not really what they wanted to hear but every delta above the current situation hurts and this was an opportunity to let our voice heard at the federal level.
- CEQA reform allows smaller cities the ability to fast track mixed use projects around transportation hubs; if it's not done right, it allows projects to go through that are not environmentally mitigated.

Various items of interest were reported on, including:

- Jacki reported that SCAG has indicated that they want to audit the COG but she asked for a delay because of the General Assembly so it has been postponed to March 2.
- Jacki reported that in order to get the Governor's proposal on the June ballot they must come to agreement by February 26<sup>th</sup> or by March 10<sup>th</sup> for the supplemental ballot
- in response to Board Member Szerlip's comment that the bills are being written in the broadest sense without specific projects and then after they are approved there will be submissions and prioritizations, Jacki said the word was that the governor is proposing an end run around that proposal – looking for more specifics;;
- Susan Dever stated that she heard there are going to be 3 proposals—the governor's, assembly and senate, with the hidden agenda being the assembly (Bay vs LA) and the criteria for Perata's bond is geographically based whereas Nunez' bond is based on population. She said this is the “underground battle”;

### South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce (John Parsons)

Board Member Parsons reported that the SBACC held their installation luncheon with the keynote by Don Knabe and intro by Ted Lieu; the new chair is Ann Garten, chair of the Redondo Chamber and PR person for El Camino College. He said there were special introductions of the chairs and executive directors of the COG and EDP who recognize the close partnership of the two groups that needs to be continued.

### South Bay Economic Development Partnership

Board Member Parsons reported that they are working on their legislative agenda with a strategic plan session coming up where we should make sure they know our desire for partnerships.

## **SBCCOG UPDATE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Aviation Issues Committee (Dwight Abbott)

Board Member Busch stated that the agreement has been signed and they are waiting for the ALUC to sign.

### Homeland Security Task Force

Board Member Witkowsky explained that soon there will be a training on the League website regarding what Councilmembers are to do; who will represent the cities during an emergency.

Jacki said that John Gaines was honored in December at a luncheon for bringing local governments together over this issue. Board Member Busch announced that Board Member Gaines' last council meeting will be April 18<sup>th</sup> and a new chair will be needed for the Homeland Security Task Force.

### Technology Committee (Michael Keegan)

Michael Keegan reported that:

- the technology committee has been organizing the General Assembly;
- email your commissioners and forward the documents that promote the event for circulation;
- there are 31 sponsors with over \$31,000;
- the poster child is Ginny Lambert, who just sent out a significant number of letters out to her city family;
- in the afternoon, during the speeches, there will be a “technical theater”;
- asked everyone to take copies of the invitations to hand out;
- because it is a sit down lunch, RSVPs are very important.

Board Member Witkowsky thanked and congratulated Keegan for pioneering this type of project in cities.

Jacki Bacharach added that the opening speaker is the former governor of Wyoming; the event starts at 10 am, with the 11:15 session to cover practical applications of the technology; and the closing speaker is

## ITEM VI.A.-8

Chair Lloyd Levine, Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee. She said the only thing that will not make it successful is if it is not well attended and asked everyone to pass out invitations and get people to call in their RSVPs.

Board Member Dever said the presentations are geared for elected officials but the displays are designed to attract city staff and planning commissioners.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY: FEBRUARY 23<sup>RD</sup>.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Merna Marshall  
Secretary