

South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Thursday, April 27, 2006
Lomita City Hall – Lomita, California

Vice Chair Jim Aldinger called the meeting of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments to order at 7:16 p.m. In attendance were the following members:

Carl Jacobsen, El Segundo
Michael Keegan, Hermosa Beach
Barry Waite, Lomita
Jim Aldinger, Manhattan Beach
John Parsons, Redondo Beach

Ginny Lambert, Hawthorne
Judy Dunlap, Inglewood
Jan Perry, Los Angeles
Steve Wolowicz, Rancho Palos Verdes
Judy Mitchell, Rolling Hills Estates

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
Michael Karsch, City of Los Angeles
Doug Kim, MTA
Ron Ketcham, SCAQMD
PomPom Ganuli, SCAQMD

Merna Marshall, SBCCOG
Diane Cameron, SBCCOG
Pam O'Connor, MTA Board Member
Oscar Abarca, SCAQMD
Michele Swanson, So. Bay Energy Savings
Jeff Catalano, City of Los Angeles
Darin Chidsey, SCAG

Flag Salute - led by Vice Chair Aldinger

Self-Introductions

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF ANY CHANGES TO THE AGENDA –

MOTION by Board Member Parsons, seconded by Board Member Lambert, to approve the agenda with the following modifications: Agenda Item VIII.B and Item VIII.A.3.a were moved to the beginning of the agenda. No objection. So ordered

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

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION by Board Member Dunlap seconded by Board Member Parsons, to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. No objection. So ordered.

- 1) **March 2006 Board Meeting Minutes – Approve**
- 2) **Third Quarter Financial Report –Approve**
- 3) **Dues for FY 2006-07– Approve**
- 4) **Energy Office Lease Renewal Mid-Year Budget Revision – Approve**

8.A.3.b – Pension Reform

Ann Marie Wallace presented an update on the Pension Reform legislation, noting that the latest recommendation - to take no position on pension reform legislation, ACA 23 - has been approved by committee; the basic element is that it has a hybrid definition of a defined benefit and defined contribution benefit. She reviewed the change proposed in the formulas and contribution benefit; noted that it will probably come back some time in 2008, and explained this is why the League of California Cities is not taking a position on it this year.

The Board discussed the downside of maintaining the defined benefit plan as the essential plan for public employees, with Board Member Wolowicz commenting that 40% of the expenses in Rancho Palos Verdes' budget are in retirement benefit plans which is unacceptable to his city.

Board Member Waite said the big issue is disability pensions and pointed out that LA City fire (which is not in PERS) and has come up with a solution.

In response to Vice Chair Aldinger inquiry whether it was the pleasure of the COG to pursue this through our cities, it was the consensus of the Board to take a more aggressive in the future on this matter.

Partnership Agreement

Jacki Bacharach reviewed the partnership agreement between Edison/Gas/COG (which was emailed to all Board members in advance of the meeting) to continue the energy program for another three years, explaining that an advance of \$121,000 has been given to the COG prior to approval of the contract, which is very similar to the contract of three years ago.

MOTION by Board Member Parsons, seconded by Board Member Lambert, to approve contract. All Ayes except Barry Waite (Lomita) who abstained.

AQMD COMPOSITION -- AB 2015

Los Angeles Councilmember Jan Perry reported on the status of AQMD issues and shared information on the board composition legislation noting:

- AB 2015 is moving through the Assembly and staff is very pleased with the success in the committees.
- Over 20 cities and organization have sent a letter in support of the amended version of the bill, which adds one new member to the AQMD.
- While the City of Los Angeles has been supportive, the AQMD has been fighting the measure all the way.
-
- The SBCCOG has the services of a lobbyist in Sacramento, as well as many COG members. She will inform everyone of the Senate Appropriations meeting date.

Board Member Parsons said he had testified at the Assembly Natural Resources Committee meeting and noted that many of the organizations that deal with AQMD took the position that it would cost more to deal with AQMD because of the additional seat and pointed out that adding one more seat does not increase the number of votes required to secure action. He said hopefully it will be sent out of the Appropriations Committee and to the floor, but we should not give up our efforts. He stressed that while this should not be a partisan issue, it has been (democrats for and republicans against).

Los Angeles Councilmember Jan Perry distributed a packet of information in support of the COG's pursuit of adding to the AQMD Board, which started back when James Hahn was Mayor. She encouraged everyone to contact her if they have problems with air quality in their communities. Jan Perry emphasized the importance of talking to the AQMD Board members directly, not staff, by phone, email,

certified mail, and speaking at public comment time. She said she senses more openness about the one seat (rather than 4).

Oscar Abarca, SCAQMD, said it is very awkward for the AQMD to be at different ends of the issue from the COG; however, with the exception of Jan Perry, the rest of the governing board members remain unified in their opposition to the original version of the bill as well as the amended version of the bill. Board Member Parsons said the discussion at the Assembly Natural Resources committee meeting on Monday was very passionate on both sides but civil, with everyone agreeing to disagree.

In response to Board Member Mitchell's inquiry whether there is any point in bringing the matter back to the AQMD Board with the amended version, Councilmember Perry said she believes it would be worthwhile and said she would help coordinate getting the item on the agenda and that the SBCCOG should continue to communicate directly with the AQMD Board members.

Michael Karsh, City of Los Angeles, said the COG needs to make more contact with the AQMD Board members and that it is important to see agreement in Southern California and the AQMD.

PRESENTATION RE: MTA – LONG RANGE PLAN

Doug Kim, Director of Long Term Planning at MTA, address the Board regarding transportation issues in the future, what kind of funding will be available, and trying to carve out the best strategy for the future.

Mr. Kim explained that between now and 2030, \$140 billion will be available to spend on transportation, with three-quarters coming through MTA and ultimately given to cities and other transportation projects. He noted that the MTA tries to stay on the SCAG's regional planning schedule and explained that an update on the MTA plan will be presented to the Board next week which will include how much new money is available (\$7 billion) over 25 years and how should it be spent; an analysis of major capital projects (approximately 3 dozen projects) to see what kind get the best value for the money; and noted that small projects in individual cities will be funded through "call for projects," which is every four years.

In response to Board Member Parsons concern that the South Bay is more affected by arterials and question whether they will be included for consideration of funding, Mr. Kim said they would be included in "call for projects" but the Board has the ability to increase the funding for this type of project.

In response to Board Member Parson's concern that Mayor Villarigosa's desire to extend the subway to Santa Monica will affect the funding for South Bay, Claudette stated that the funding sources are not the same and, thus, it will not be affected.

REPORTS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Legislative Committee Report

Legislative Action Recommendations

Board Member Mitchell reviewed the legislation recommended for action, noting that the recommendations on the issues are mostly in line with the League of California Cities.

Board Member Wolowicz expressed concern about the low income and low-low income housing regulations forced upon cities and noted that much of this is bad legislation written in haste and emotion and said he would feel very bad if any of these would be counter to the existing requirements in communities, where there are high priced units and it is impossible to comply.

Board Member Parsons pointed out that as the bills go through committees they get amended and encouraged everyone to stay on top of the amendments.

The Board discussed AB 2987 (Nunez) related to Cable and Video Service, and Ann Marie Wallace distributed a form letter that can be used for opposition. In response to Board Member Keegan's suggestion that the Technology Committee review the bill and make a recommendation, Jacki Bacharach

suggested he attend the Legislative Committee to make recommendations, inasmuch as it has been difficult to get a quorum at the Technology Committee, to which there was no objection.

MOTION by Board Member Mitchell, seconded by Board Member Parsons, to accept the Legislative Committee's recommendation. Board Member Dunlap asked for an amendment to vote separately on 3 bills. No objection. So ordered.

MOTION by Board Member Parsons, seconded by Board Member Keegan, to support AB 2378. All Ayes, with the exception of Board Member Dunlap, who abstained. So ordered.

MOTION by Board Member Parsons, seconded by Board Member Keegan, to oppose AB 2526. All Ayes, with the exception of Board Member Dunlap, who abstained. So ordered.

MOTION by Board Member Parsons, seconded by Board Member Keegan, to oppose AB 1206. No objection. So ordered.

WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT GRANT

Michelle Swanson reported on the status of the activities of the Water Replenishment District Grant, including identifying medical offices that still use water to develop negatives; restaurants in Lomita to determine which ones could use sprayers in the kitchen; businesses with large blacktop areas that could use water brushes for cleaning; educating gardeners on water wise practices in Inglewood—how to minimize water use; and the next part of the program which will be hosting focus groups on marketing materials and providing decals for the trucks of gardeners who are waterwise certified.

Board Member Parsons suggested obtaining business license information from cities in order to distribute information regarding the training and pointed out that advertising on the radio will reach people far outside the boundaries of the WRD, which may not be desirable.

Jacki Bacharach explained that the \$25,000 grant runs through June and the SBCCOG will be applying for an extension of the grant.

ENERGY PROJECTS UPDATE:

Michelle Swanson reported 1) The draft evaluation report has been received for the previous 2 year grant program, and SBESC met or exceeded all of their goals; 2) people who attended the educational seminars gave a 96.5% satisfaction rating; 3) they came across as very effective; and 4) staff was interviewed and reported they could be more effective beyond education and information by working with cities on various projects, and this has been put in the report as a recommendation.

Jacki reported that the EE+ (hard savings program) is moving along; the vending misers are ordered and being delivered, with 8 or 9 cities having received their orders and others still waiting; and follow-up calls will be made to be sure they are received and being installed, since the rebate will not be sent to the COG until the units are installed.

SETTING SBCCOG WORK PROGRAM AND PRIORITIES FOR 2006-07

Jacki Bacharach reviewed the COG's mission statement and the projects committed for the next year (06-07), including Energy Center, EE+, Energy Policy Outreach, Goods Movement, Mixed Use Centers/Livable Communities, Data Collection & Report Review, Transportation-related issues, legislative activities, homeland security issues, joint projects, website, support city staff networking and information sharing, working groups, liaison with regional agencies, special projects such as area code, and the LA Air Force Base. She said the Board needs to determine if they wish to continue with the Traffic Alert System, (which is not a real-time system), noting that it is not publicized because it may not be reliable; cities are not keeping the information updated; and the County will have a real-time traffic system in a couple of years. She recommended it kept inactive but that the cities should be polled as to whether it can be used for something other than traffic alert (perhaps emergency preparedness).

Board Member Lambert suggested the City Managers be informed of the situation and ask for input.

Board Member Waite said the utility system sets on top of the Traffic Alert System and is used as a planning tool; the original intent was for the cities and utility companies to find out what each other is doing so they won't continually dig up the same streets for different projects after they have just been repaved; and the City of Carson will require that utility companies use it to initiate permits.

Jacki Bacharach reviewed some possible new projects, including 1) South Bay Film Council; 2) Water Replenishment District; 3) Staff Working Group(s) on Technology; and 4) special tours and events throughout the year.

Board Member Aldinger suggested using interns at the Board level, as offered by a professor at Dominguez Hills.

Board Member Mitchell asked about the express bus from Union Station to LAX and suggested an express bus be provided from the port to the airport, noting that some people are renting cars at the port and returning it at the airport. Pam O'Connor pointed out that the bus from Union Station to the airport is funded by the airport, not MTA.

Jacki Bacharach asked for suggestions for next year's General Assembly, noting that they will be discussed further at upcoming committee meetings.

AGENCY REPORTS

League of California Cities (Ann Marie Wallace)

Ann Marie Wallace distributed and reviewed the draft itinerary for the trip League of California Cities legislative action days May 17-18 in Sacramento, noting that the League board meeting follows the legislative action days and the Governor's revised budget will be released in a week.

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

Pam O'Connor reported on several items, including:

- the West Side COG activities;
- the subway battle between Los Angeles and West Hollywood;
- commending staff for keeping everyone notified of important issues;
- she will be attending the UCLA workshop on May 23 on health impacts of transportation; and
- Will not be in attendance at the May 25th meeting.

Pam O'Connor expressed her concerns about the Margett Bill (restructuring the MTA Board to give small cities another seat but not increase the size of the Board, because the City of Los Angeles loses one of its community members) noting that the bill is going to the Senate floor and can come up at any time. Claudette Moody noted that when you create two smaller districts from one you weaken their position.

AQMD

Ron Ketcham, AQMD invited elected officials to attend an ultra-fine particles conference next week at no charge. He said there is evidence that many illnesses are now attributed to ultra-fine particles; explained the lawn mower exchange program; reported that clean air award nominations will be submitted next month; heavy-duty vehicles and street sweeper exemption rule will be extended to July 2008; and he encouraged local schools to participate in the ISAAQ high school competition for electric powered vehicles built by students.

SCAG Committees

Darin Chidsey reported that the SCAG General Assembly will be held May 4 in Long Beach—the theme being regional partners, the key to global competitiveness. He noted that AB 2015 will be reported on for informational purposes, but not for action; and the RHNA workshop next Monday at the SCAG offices.

South Bay City Association of Chambers of Commerce & South Bay Economic Development Partnership (John Parsons)

Board Member Parsons reported:

- The SBACC members were in Sacramento for legislative days April 24-25;
- SBEDP is working on their work plan for next year;
- A Joint meeting of SBCCOG, SBACC and SBEDP was held to discuss areas of common interest.

SBCCOG UPDATE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Technology Committee (Michael Keegan, Chair)

Jacki Bacharach explained that the future of the Technology Committee needs to be discussed and asked the Board to go back to their staff and ask how they think the COG could add value in this arena.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Waterfront tour has plenty of space available; wear comfortable shoes.

May 9: Homeland Security Task Force meeting

May 23: UCLA Conference

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Merna Marshall
Secretary