

**South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Thursday, May 25, 2006
Lomita City Hall – Lomita, California**

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

Eric Busch, El Segundo
Robert Miles-Pullen, Lawndale
Jim Aldinger, Manhattan Beach
Steve Wolowicz, Rancho Palos Verdes
Don Szerlip, Redondo Beach
Susan Seamans, Rolling Hills Estates

Ginny Lambert, Hawthorne
Susan Dever, Lomita
???? Palos Verdes Estates
John Parsons, Redondo Beach
Judy Mitchell, Rolling Hills Estates

Also in attendance were the following persons:

Merna Marshall, SBCCOG
Diane Cameron, SBCCOG
Claudette Moody, Deputy, for Pam O'Connor
Ron Ketcham, SCAQMD
Jerry Jeffe, Calif. Contract Cities Assn

Renee Berlin, MTA
Michele Swanson, So. Bay Energy Savings
Kim Fuentes, SBCCOG

Flag Salute - led by Chair Dever

Self-Introductions

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF ANY CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

MOTION by Board Member Szerlip, seconded by Board Member Lambert, to approve the agenda, as proposed. No objection. So ordered.

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

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

Announcements

Chair Dever announced

- **The passage of AB 2015 by the Assembly today.**
- **Ann Marie Wallace – graduating from Cal State Long Beach in Political Science today and will not be present.**

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION by Board Member Aldinger seconded by Board Member Lambert, to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. No objection. Two abstentions. So ordered.

1) April 2006 Board Meeting Minutes – Approve

PRESENTATION – ED AVOL, USC MEDICAL SCHOOL

Dr. Ed Avol spoke regarding Goods Movement, Transportation and Health and the effect of diesel fuel emissions on health. He explained that the closer you are to the location of the emission, the worse the health risk; diesel emissions are very irregular in shape, very small (1/10th of a micron) and cannot be seen by the naked eye; diesel exhaust has been named a “Toxic Air Contaminant” since 1998 and determined to pose a strong cancer risk; and a study of children with asthma showed that the further away from the road, the less risk of asthma, and living within 300 meters of a major roadway affects lung function and makes asthma worse; as

particle exposure goes up the risk of cardiac disease increases; if you move away from a dirty area to a clean area, your lung function accelerates—but the same is true of the opposite. Thus, if we could clean up the air while those children are still growing, you could improve their health as adults.

In response to an inquiry from Board Member Szerlip regarding CNG and LNG engines, Ed Avol explained that these engines produce lower amounts of particles, but there are studies that show they can also produce higher concentrations of the smaller particles. He stated however, there is more toxic active in diesel. Dr. Avol explained that diesel engines have a 25-35 year lifespan, but as they are replaced with newer engines that are many times cleaner than the old, which will reduce the amounts of toxins .

Regarding *Goods Movement*, Dr. Avol explained that port growth is expected to triple in the next 15 to 20 years, processing over 40-50% of imports in the country and the major route for moving goods out of the port is the 710 freeway. In conclusion, he stressed the importance of considering solutions in a regional way—goods movement, traffic issues, air quality, and health outcomes.

In response to an inquiry from Board Member Wolowicz regarding whether there is a master plan and where the funding may be available for solutions to a problem of this magnitude, Dr. Avol said that there is a SCAG effort, and the Governor's Goods Movement Task Force, who are also looking at the problem. He also stated that there are different levels of regional issues to be addressed. He stressed the need to think in terms of how to solve the problem without just moving the problem from one area to another or displacing and disturbing communities along the corridor. He said the port receives goods that go to other parts of the country, but we are not getting the sufficient federal funds to support the movement of the goods, and we need to either redistribute the ports or get funding to solve the pollution problem.

Nominating Committee Report

MOTION by Board Member Szerlip, seconded by Board Member Lambert, to receive and file the Nominating Committee recommendations:

Chair: Jim Aldinger, Councilmember, Manhattan Beach

1st Vice Chair: Don Szerlip, Councilmember, Redondo Beach

2nd Vice Chair: Steve Wolowicz, Mayor, Rancho Palos Verdes

All Ayes. So ordered.

Draft 2006-2007 Budget

Margie Waite, SBCCOG Bookkeeper, reviewed the status of the current budget and the proposed 2006-07 budget (on file in the office of the Executive Director) and answered questions from Board members.

Questions included:

- What was covered under the Special Consultant line item? It was explained that this item was for specialty consultants such as Tony Rice for the Air Quality Board composition and Aldaron Inc. for transportation. In addition, there will be budget remaining to add consultants as needed.
- Are we keeping reserves? It was explained that we have dedicated reserve of 15% of general fund expenses and the budget includes that item.
- What is the expenditure credit "Staff Team and/or Overhead on Staff Billed to Grants"? It was explained that this is a reimbursement for the energy grant.

It was noted that the budget will be adopted at the **June meeting**.

Legislative Committee Report

Legislative Action Recommendations

Board Member Mitchell reviewed the list of legislation upon which SBCCOG has a position, as well as those on which the COG has already taken a position.

Rancho Palos Verdes Board Member Wolowicz expressed his opposition to any further housing legislation and asked if there was anything in the proposed bills to provide relief to the coastal communities. Board Member Parsons responded that there is a provision to allow trading. Board Member Seamans said these bills will not require that land be provided, but rather it will give flexibility to stop the state from forcing rules on cities and the bills that the League supports are aimed at doing that. She recommended the COG support any bill put forth by the League and to oppose any bills opposed by the league, as they have put a lot of thought into their recommendations.

MOTION by Board Member Aldinger to approve the positions as recommended by the Legislative Committee. Motion was seconded by Board Member Szerlip. All ayes except Board Member Lambert. Motion passed.

Kim Fuentes reviewed the proposed wording from SCAG to change the RHNA requirements, with housing allocation strictly based on census data and cities allowed to trade within subregions, but no city is allowed to take "0" allocation. She said it connects housing needs with the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), and some cities are concerned that the RTP will become the zoning document for cities.

Board Member Seamans emphasized that one size does not fit all, regions are different across the state, and the regions best know where the housing could go. She also stated that we don't want HCD telling us what we need. She asked everyone to have faith that things are moving and not close their minds to something good happening.

MOTION by Board Member Wolowicz, seconded by Board Member Lambert, that Board Member Aldinger, in his vote on this matter, express that we need a broader region for the coastal communities to participate, otherwise it will not be feasible, and to oppose that portion that says you cannot take an allocation and to relay this information to the COG's other representative. No objection. So ordered.

MOTION by Board Member Aldinger, seconded by Board Member Szerlip, to receive file the list of legislation on which the COG has already taken a position. No objection. So ordered.

Legislative Priorities Update

AB 2015 - AQMD Board Composition Change Update

Jerry Jeffe, California Contract Cities, reported that today AB 2015 made it through the Assembly and pointed out that it would not have gone through without the extensive lobbying this week by everyone or the extensive support of Assemblyman Ted Lieu, who deserves an incredible amount of credit. He noted that the appearances the assembly members make before the League and COGs help make a difference, so encouraging relationships with them helps. He added that the next step is to get the bill through the Senate, noting that Assemblyman Lieu will make the presentations in the committee and it will matter who carries it on the floor.

Board Member Aldinger recommended sending a thank you letter to the appropriate member of the Assembly who were instrumental in getting the bill passed.

Energy Projects Update

Michelle Swanson reported:

- the regular programs have been moving forward fast;
- all cities are on board with regard to the EE+ programs, and Torrance is the last city to get their vending-miser orders in at the lowest rate;
- the next initiative will focus on computer network energy management , providing energy

cost savings for computer networks. A presentation will be made on June 14th for city staff to introduce the program to them; and

- June 1st is the Energy Economic Development presentation forum for city economic development directors.

SBCCOG staff are still talking with the West Basin Water District and others to find additional funding and adding water efficiency to the message of the Energy Center.

Pension Reform

Board Member Mitchell said the reform needs to focus on the safety employees and reported that the League of California Cities Board adopted the task force position to not pursue it any further. She said Bob LaSalle (the City Manager from Lancaster and Chair of the task force) is willing to talk to Board Member Wolowicz about it.

AGENCY REPORTS

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Claudette Moody reported on several items related to MTA, including but not limited to:

- MTA Board passed the \$3 billion budget, balanced by reserves and they will be looking at additional savings during the next 30 days through efficiencies, revenue sources and will report back with what else could be worked as an amendment;
- Congestion mitigation fee study includes the establishment of a policy advisory committee, with representation from COGs, to help develop recommendations.
- Long Range Transportation Plan: it is uncertain whether recommendations will be discussed in June to move projects from the unfunded to the funded plan and add new projects, with the draft not ready until fall;
- Claudette attended the Multi-County Goods Movement Task Force, where they discussed health issues; she noted that there is not a plan yet but they are pooling all of the existing studies, receiving input from the various stakeholders, and writing a paper, with a plan and recommendations expected in January. They are in communication with the Governor's Task Force and talked significantly about the federal component because of the national implications.

South Coast Air Quality Management District (Ron Ketcham)

Mr. Ketcham reported on:

- Clean Air Awards coming up;
- Lawn mower exchange program
- task force on refinery flares and an upcoming community meeting;
- goods movement/port activity and positive position on current legislation dealing with trains and SJR 31;
- the Union Pacific representative has said the Panama Canal is doing a huge expansion, which could be more attractive for goods movement shifting to the southern ports.

Local Government and Business Advisory Group (Eric Busch)

Board Member Busch reported on a fee increase for emissions and permit fees, causing a dilemma, because the better they do their job, the fewer emissions there are. Therefore, to avoid deficit spending, they are proposing two options—one being the use of a CPI Index and the other is a 10-10-10 option (10% increase each year for 3 years). He expressed frustration that a motion was made to get a record of the discussion to the Board members in a timely manner before they meet, however the motion failed.

The Board discussed whether or not to write a letter regarding this situation and it was decided to wait to see what happens next before writing.

Transportation and Communication (Don Szerlip, Jim Aldinger)

Board Member Szerlip reported that he attended the Energy and Environment committee to make a presentation of 2015, who recommended support on a 9-4 vote and later it was presented to the Regional Council for their consideration, where there was a motion to support; a substitute motion to take no position and a "hand vote" revealed "no position" won 19-18.

Regional Council (Paul Nowatka, Jim Aldinger, Judy Dunlap)

Board Member Aldinger reported that SCAG Regional Council and all committees would be meeting on June 1st in the Marina.

The Board will ask Paul Nowatka to report on Regional Council activities at an upcoming meeting.

South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce (John Parsons)

Board Member Parsons reported that the SBACC Chamber forum was held recently, and they added AB 2015 to their priority list.

South Bay Economic Development Partnership (John Parsons)

Board Member Parsons reported that the chair of the Economic Development Partnership recently resigned.

SBCCOG UPDATE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report from Working Groups (Kim Fuentes)

Kim Fuentes reported:

- the Livable Communities Committee is looking at centers in the South Bay assessing how they function; next phase will be a document cities can use to help them plan; and preliminary results show that a center that works well has both good design and mix of desired functions.
- The Infrastructure Working Group has been discussing water issues related to the regional water plan, run off and supply. This group is also working with the LACDWP on the signal sync. Projects. The County is getting ready to deploy 51 intersections;
- GIS is working with the County to get computer software programming for sharing security data

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Water 101: The League's Division dinner starts at 5:30 with a basic overview of all the water agencies, how to get water, how much it costs, followed by a panel discussion of the program after dinner.**

The Board discussed the possibility of changing the date of the next meeting from the 22nd to the 29th and it was SO ORDERED that there are more people available on the 29th and, thus the meeting date was changed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Merna Marshall
Secretary