

South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Thursday, June 29, 2006
Lomita City Hall – Lomita, California

Chair Susan Dever called the meeting of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments to order at 7:24 p.m. In attendance were the following members:

Eric Busch, El Segundo	Ginny Lambert, Hawthorne
Michael Keegan, Hermosa Beach	Judy Dunlap, Inglewood
Robert Miles-Pullen, Lawdale	Susan Dever, Lomita
Jim Aldinger, Manhattan Beach	Dwight Abbott, Palos Verdes Estates
Steve Wolowicz, Rancho Palos Verdes	John Parsons, Redondo Beach
Don Szerlip, Redondo Beach	Susan Seamans, Rolling Hills Estates
Hope Witowsky, Torrance	

Also in attendance were the following persons:

Merna Marshall, SBCCOG	Ann Marie Wallace, League of Calif. Cities
Diane Cameron, SBCCOG	Renee Berlin, MTA
Claudette Moody, Dpty, Pam O'Connor	
Michele Swanson, So. Bay Energy Savings	Ron Ketcham, SCAQMD

Flag Salute - led by Chair Dever

Self-Introductions

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF ANY CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Jacki Bacharach added an announcement. Board Member Witowsky asked that Items 8 A & C be moved to the top of the agenda. So ordered.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- A. May 2006 Board Meeting Minutes – Approve**
- B. Agreement with Lance, Soll & Lunghard for 2005-06 Audit – Approve**
- C. 2006-07 Budget – presented at May Board meeting – Approve**
- D. Amendment to Contract with Jacki Bacharach & Associates for Program Coordination Services to reflect approved 2006-07 Budget & West Basin Municipal Water District Grant – Approve**
- E. Bookkeeping Services with Margie Waite – Approve month to month**

Election of Officers

There were no nominations from the floor.

MOTION by Board Member Seamans seconded by Board Member Szerlip, to close nominations. No objection. So ordered.

MOTION by Board Member Witowsky, seconded by Board Member Szerlip, to approve the Nominating Committee recommendations as follows:

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.

Presentations of Commendation to Outgoing Chair Dever

Mayor-Elect Frank Scotto, City of Torrance

Mayor-elect Frank Scotto thanked the COG for a few moments to express his appreciation for the hard work the COG does to break down barriers among cities. He said over the years we haven't quite worked together as well as we should have and now that he's the mayor he promised to have a representative at all meetings and it will be his goal to work together.

Legislative Committee Report

Jacki explained that there are several bills that have gone "dead" because it hasn't made it through committee and several of the bills on which the COG has a position had hearings in the past week.

Legislative Action Recommendations

HR 5252 & S 2686 – Oppose

MOTION by Board Member Aldinger, seconded by Board Member Szerlip, to oppose HR 5252 and S 2686, as recommended by the Legislative Committee. All ayes. So ordered.

Legislation upon which SBCCOG has a Position

Jacki Bacharach explained that the Legislative Committee followed the policy regarding taking an action outside of the COG meeting and phoned to place the COG's position on record regarding the federal communications bill.

League of California Cities representative Ann Marie Wallace distributed an informational sheet on the federal bill and noted that Congresswoman Harman voted in favor of the legislation.

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.

PRESENTATION – THE STATUS OF TELECOM LEGISLATION AND WHAT IT REALLY MEANS TO OUR CITIES

Redondo Beach Councilmember Steve Diels reported on the Senate Committee hearing regarding the status of the Telecom legislation and what it means to the South Bay cities. He also reviewed the various issues summarized in the handout distributed by Ann Marie Wallace.

Councilmember Diels noted that as a member of the League of California Cities Environmental Committee and as part of his profession, he has a lot of experience dealing with the phone companies over the past years, especially when they were a legislative monopoly. He questioned why the phone company would spend half-billion dollars to “bring competition” to the marketplace; pointed out that there is no “content” in the phone company product but there is in the cable product—and it is questionable that their prices will be lower; and noted that their justification for the legislation is that competition will lower the price.

Board Member Aldinger reported that when Verizon made a presentation to the Manhattan Beach City Council they said they don’t guarantee that the price will come down but they will slow down future increases.

Legislative Priorities Update

Area Code Update:

Jacki Bacharach reported she received a call from the PUC Public Outreach Committee expressing concern about the COG’s website which contains information regarding the fact that there hasn’t been much publicity about the 310 area code changes; they asked her to remove this information; and the Steering Committee has directed her not to change the website.

AB 2015 - AQMD Board Composition Change Update

Jacki Bacharach expressed concern that the AQMD has been fighting the COG at each meeting; reported that the bill has been through three committees in the Assembly and is now at the senate local government committee; reported that Tony Rice, the COG’s consultant, is working on getting votes during the recess to try to make sure it gets through the Senate; and stated that Senator Torletsen’s office has indicated that he would take a new look at the bill.

Jacki also relayed that the AQMD is saying that this is only for the South Bay and it is a rich people’s bill and that both Carson and Inglewood have agreed to do something pro-active, noting that this has nothing to do with class, it has to do with representation and pollution.

Board Member Parsons pointed out that because this is such a partisan environment, the COG has been going after the democrat votes but it is important to remember that the handful of Republican votes received made it pass on the Senate floor and it is important to target the Republican vote as well.

Board Member Aldinger said it is important for the COG members to be in contact directly with the Senators, as well as receiving regular updates from the consultant regarding which senators we should contact.

Board Member Seamans suggested putting together some talking points to be used when contacting the senators.

Board Member Parsons said there was a major amendment at the Senate, a philosophical position that took out of the bill any realignment of the seats.

Jacki Bacharach expressed concern that while Jan Perry has been telling the COG that she supports the COG’s position, she actually submitted an amendment in opposition to the COG’s position.

Energy Projects Update

Jacki Bacharach reported that the Energy Office is for the COG and brings services to the constituents in all member cities.

Marilyn Lyons distributed a list of workshops and events and reported:

- On the status of the vending machine vending-mizer program (all cities except Torrance have signed up);
- On the availability of vending-mizers for computer network (powering up and down when not being used)
- They appreciate that staff members of the cities are attending the various meetings and helping them realize how the cities can save energy;
- Work is starting to develop a Public Service Announcement (PSA) for movie theaters; and
- They are adding the water element to the conservation through energy efficiency.

Jacki Bacharach reported that the COG is looking for funding to add water to the conservation program so when people come to us they are ready to change their habits. She explained that the West Basin Municipal Water District is very excited about helping and have assigned a staff member to work with the COG to do discrete programs including 1) restroom retrofit; 2) laundry retrofit; 3) water conservation display and joint information Brochure; and 4) seek future funding opportunities. She said while the West Basin Water District does not include Torrance, they have agreed to meet with Torrance representatives to ensure they work together even though they are not in the West Basin Water District.

Board Member Parsons stated that a very large laundry-room company (Web) would probably like to be involved in this type of project, noting that they are suppliers to a majority of apartments in the area, and offered to set up a meeting with Web and the Energy Center.

Jacki Bacharach explained that the agenda item includes approving the scope of work at the budget and noted that the actual agreement is still being reviewed by legal counsel and will be available for Steering Committee to approve.

MOTION by Board Member Szerlip, seconded by Board Member Seamans, to approve staff recommendation. No objection. So ordered.

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Jacki Bacharach reported that the MTA Board passed a motion for a \$250,000 grant to the COG for goods movement, for a total of \$330,000 in grants from the MTA and totaling \$1.3 million this year. She said she is looking for a new member of her team and encouraged staff members who would like to be on a task force to work on these things to contact her.

Jacki Bacharach suggested studying the air cargo, which is of special interest to the South Bay COG, noting that studies are being conducted by the Gateway COG on the 710 freeway but they stop at Carson, and this is an opportunity to study beyond that location.

Board Member Seamans asked staff to draft a list recommended items for distribution to the COG members, for review and consideration.

In response to Board Member Parsons' request for an update from the transportation consultant, Jacki Bacharach said this could be decided at the upcoming Steering Committee.

Board Member Aldinger suggested forming a Transportation Committee where reports could be made by the consultant.

AGENCY REPORTS

League of California Cities (Ann Marie Wallace)

Ann Marie Wallace reported that the State Budget passed and the Governor gets prime credit and the Anderson Initiative officially qualified for the November ballot (eminent domain), which will affect environment and housing regulations in all cities.

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Claudette Moody reported:

- planning funding was discussed separately from the budget itself and deferred, which gave time to improve the grants to the South Bay and West Side;
- the increases in sales taxes caused a windfall which can only be used for planning and lobbying purposes;
- Prop 1A and 1B (transportation bonds) were supported by the MTA Board, and their staffs are restricted in how much lobbying they can do (they can provide information regarding the types of projects the funding could be used for);
- the Long Range Transportation Plan is being worked on but it is important to know how much funding will be available before it is finalized;
- cities can articulate the need for the bonds, possibly holding hearings and other public education events; using sample letters to write letters to the editor; and possibly providing space in the city newsletters regarding how the bonds will affect the cities; and
- Gloria Molina will be the new chair of the MTA Board and Pam O'Connor is First Vice Chair.

South Coast Air Quality Management District (Ron Ketcham)

Mr. Ketcham reported:

- The ports have come up with a five-year Clean Port Plan directed at reducing knock and emissions from port-related activity by more than 50%;
- On the development of a Ride and Drive Program wherein the AQMD will make a presentation to cities of the fuel cell hybrid vehicles; and
- There has been a 10% increase in permit emission and annual renewal fees for businesses for 3 years.

Board Member Parsons noted that 2/3 of the truckers using the ports surveyed support Pier Pass.

Jacki Bacharach noted that Congresswoman Harman sent a letter supporting AB 2015.

Board Member Seamans noted that she believes the AQMD does a terrific job at what they do and that is why she supports adding a new seat to the Board.

SCAG

Darin Chidsey distributed a new SCAG report, which included information on the following:

- **The Regional Council Meeting will be held July 6; and**
- **The CHD committee will be recommending whether or not to move forward on the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) pilot program to merge the housing and transportation members.**

Transportation and Communication (Don Szerlip, Jim Aldinger)

Board Member Szerlip reported on committee activities, including discussion of the scheduling of the RTP process for the next go around; the need to make sure the COG can get whatever changes are desired during that period; and the consensus that a number of issues in the bonds favor Southern California and are split on usage—giving us a larger percentage than normal.

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

Board Member Aldinger reported that the Committee discussed bonds, housing and RTP.

South Bay City Managers Association (Bill Workman)

Jacki Bacharach reported that the City Managers are changing their chair to mirror the chair of the COG, which will mean that Manhattan Beach City Manager Geoff Dolan will be their chair during the next year.

SBCCOG UPDATE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Technology Committee (Michael Keegan, Chair)

Jacki suggested this committee could be used to share local activities.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **June 30; 7:30 am—Energy Conservation Summit – <http://www.fypower.org/register/june30>**
- **July & August SCCOG Committee Meetings & Working Groups --- consult website for specific times and places; www.southbaycities.org**

No Board meeting in July; next meeting Thursday, August 24th, in Manhattan Beach.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Merna Marshall
Secretary