

South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Thursday, August 24, 2006
Manhattan Beach Police and Fire Facility

Chair Jim Aldinger 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	Susan Dever, Lomita
Jim Aldinger, Manhattan Beach	Dwight Abbott, Palos Verdes Estates
Steve Wolowicz, Rancho Palos Verdes	
Don Szerlip, Redondo Beach	
Paul Nowatka, Torrance	Judy Mitchell, Rolling Hills Estates

Also in attendance were the following persons:

John Parsons, Redondo Beach	Susan Seamans, Rolling Hills Estates
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	Darin Chidsey, SCAG
Kurt Weideman, Torrance Resident	

Flag Salute - led by Chair Aldinger

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF ANY CHANGES TO THE AGENDA – none

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

A. June 2006 Board Meeting Minutes—Approve

B. Report of Steering committee Actions—Approve

RECESS FOR TOUR OF FACILITY – POSTPONED to the beginning of the next meeting so it can include a tour through the barracks.

REPORTS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Special Election of Officers

Jacki Bacharach reported that following the last meeting, the first vice chair and second vice chair resigned

There were no nominations from the floor.

MOTION by Board Member Wolowicz, seconded by Board Member Szerlip, to approve the nominating committee's recommendation. No objection. So ordered.

1 st Vice Chair	Paul Nowatka, Councilmember, Torrance
2 nd Vice Chair	Don Szerlip, Councilmember, Redondo Beach

Board Member Wolowicz noted that it was with a great deal of pride that he made the nomination and

thanked the City of Torrance for returning Paul Nowatka to the South Bay Cities COG.

Legislative Committee Report

Legislative Action Recommendations including November Ballot Measures

a. November Ballot Measures

The Board discussed the Legislative Committee recommendations to support Bond Measures 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E, (infrastructure bonds) 84 (Water Quality Bond) & 86 (tax on cigarettes); to oppose Bond Measure 90; and take no position on measures 83, 85, 87, 88, 89 while waiting to see how they develop.

Board Member Szerlip questioned why the SBCCOG would take a position of support Proposition 86, which he believes does not affect cities directly. Ann Marie Wallace explained the League's position of support, which is in keeping with existing League policy.

Board Member Mitchell said the thought behind supporting the bill is that cities and counties sometimes have to cover costs for cigarette-related expenses and that is why they think it is related to cities.

Councilmember Parsons pointed out that the vote at the Legislative Committee was not unanimous.

MOTION by Board Member Szerlip, seconded by Board Member Wolowicz, to adopt the Legislative Committee's recommendation with the exception of Proposition 86, taking a "no position" on 86.

Board Member Abbott argued that a tax of this size will cause an increase of "off market" sales of cigarettes.

Board Member Aldinger argued in favor of Proposition 86, asserting that this is not about pollution but it is about saving the lives of the people who may not smoke because of the cost.

Board Member Szerlip disagreed, pointing out that it would create an organization that will be paid from what is hoped to be a diminishing pool of revenues and could end up causing future hits to cover the decreased revenues.

Board Member Wolowicz argued that the core issue is whether this issue affects cities, noting that he does not see the direct connection that has been historically established for issues before the COG, adding that he would not be able to take a position as a representative of his city.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION by Board Member Keegan, seconded by Board Member Mitchell, to approve all items except for 86, to be voted on separately.

Mitchell seconded. No opposition. So ordered to substitute the motion.

MOTION by Board Member Keegan, seconded by Board Member Busch, to vote yes on Proposition 86.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION by Board Member Szerlip, seconded by Board Member Busch, to take "no position" on Proposition 86. Motion passed.

Ayes: Szerlip, Lambert, Dever, Abbott, Busch, Wolowicz

Opposed: Aldinger, Keegan, Mitchell

Legislation upon which SBCCOG has a Position

Jacki reported on legislation upon which SBCCOG has a position, including but not limited to:

- Alan Lowenthal's bill to have a \$30 per container was dead but it is going to be put in another bill on Monday; the changes might affect SB 927;

- Senator Kevin Murray is still looking for a way to remove the term limit from Bill Burke's term as chair of the AQMD Board. Ted Lieu has offered (as late as this evening) to include this issue in his bill and then AQMD could support our legislation.
- Cable Television Franchise: doesn't look good; a lot of amendments that favor the cable companies have been made; information will go to city managers.
- Support AB 1101, AB 2928 & AB 2880 added since last meeting

Board Member Aldinger reported that four COG members lobbied 16 offices in Sacramento on the AQMD bill and they are very well aware of our support.

Councilmember Seamans pointed out that the senior staff members all agreed with the COG's position, but they said this is a political issue. She suggested that the COG continue to make this a hot issue to the people who have tried to thwart this and try to find out why this has been such an important to the AQMD to stop.

MOTION by Board Member Keegan, seconded by Board Member Szerlip, to affirm the Legislative Committee's position on AB 1101, AB 2928 & AB 2880. No objection. So ordered.

Legislative Priorities Update

Jacki reported on the following legislation:

- HR 5252—letters of thanks would be appropriate to both Senators Feinstein and Boxer;
- AB 2015 - AQMD Board Composition Change; recommend some kind of recognition of Assemblyman Lieu. If the bill is not successful this year we will bring it back next year.

The Board discussed the reasons why there is so much opposition to increasing the number of seats on the AQMD Board; noted that it is disturbing that there were disingenuous members of AQMD who spoke before the COG; and noted that this speaks to a very low level of integrity and the regard in which they hold this body; and considered expressing the COG's disappointment in writing.

Although Councilmember Seamans suggested careful consideration be given to putting any comments in writing, noting that the AQMD has opened a Pandora's box and underestimated the COG all along, she also noted her disappointment with how the political process is being manipulated here and agreed the perpetrators need to be exposed.

Board Member Aldinger recommended sending a letter to the AQMD Board to let them know the COG is not happy with the action; that we will be going forward next year and perhaps support another bill that recommends adding several seats to the AQMD Board.

Board Member Dever recommended waiting until the next Steering Committee meeting, noting that the COG can continue to work the effort over the next week or two and then think through very carefully to determine a campaign to ensure we don't waste the effort.

MOTION by Board Member Wolowicz, seconded by Board Member Lambert, to draft a letter for review by the Steering Committee, including two items in the letter: 1) merits of the bill; and 2) the low esteem the AQMD Board afforded the COG. There was no objection. So ordered.

Board Member Szerlip cautioned against any actions that would stand in the way of success next year, noting that personal comments are one thing, but he does not want to take an official COG position.

Energy Projects Update

Michele Swanson distributed a report regarding activities during the past two months, noting:

- the goals and targets have already been completed for the next three years with regard to community sweeps and outreach;
- vending misers can save cities a lot of money because the COG is purchasing them at a lower price as well as processing the rebate forms, thus benefiting cities without significant staff time;
- there are other programs that cities will be able to take advantage of without much staff time;
- an RFQ is on the street for lighting, with notices of intent received from 14 bidders; the COG will find the qualified contractors and the cities will do their own contracting using the established contractors. This process can be rolled out for other procurements in the future.

Michele Swanson explained that the Energy Savings Center has been considering asking cities to sign off on a resolution to say that, if financing is available and they have the wherewithal, they will use the Energy Savings Center for the process as a show of good faith that the work they are doing is being supported, as well as giving the contractors confidence that there is business out there.

Jacki Bacharach noted that school districts are not responding and asked COG members to contact their counterparts on the school boards for help.

Councilmember Parsons suggested a single fact sheet be prepared in order for Board members to be prepared to talk with the various school districts.

In response to Board Member Wolowicz report that he has been invited to an invitation-only breakfast by Southern California Edison and asked if there are any items that would be worth bringing up, Jacki Bacharach said the contract has a section that SBESC meet monthly with the Edison counterparts in the South Bay and she would appreciate having more information about said meeting.

Michelle Swanson reported that the Water partnership documents are not available for signature but should be finalized in the next week or so. She explained that representatives from the West Basin Municipal Water District attended a recent Torrance Water Commission meeting and asked Torrance to participate in the program since most of the City of Torrance is not in the West Basin Municipal Water District boundary.. Partners would then include: So. Calif. Edison, So. Calif. Gas, West Basin Water District and Torrance Water Commission.

General Assembly Topic Discussion

Jacki Bacharach reported that a location that can hold about 250 people is still needed for the General Assembly scheduled for February 2007. She added that the most important thing is the topic, noting that the Steering Committee will discuss this at an upcoming meeting and will appreciate input.

Jacki reported on topics from past General Assembly meetings, including technology, law enforcement, homeland security, livable communities, energy efficiency, and noted some suggestions already made for next year include: natural resources/environment/utilities; gas prices and impact; transportation and the South Bay; demographics (seniors/youth); marketing cities; parks and recreation facilities in the South Bay.

Suggestions for several topics were made, including but not limited to:

- environmentally sound practices for cities—green buildings and other energy savings out there;
- transportation/traffic relief/congestion;
- transportation and the effect of development on transportation;
- South Bay regional issues;
- ultimately need to think about what's going to draw people in and it may not be what the COG members think are good issues;
- Perhaps two topics would bring more people in, but if it is the desire to tighten it down and not be a full-day event, two topics might not work;
- solar and alternatives to save people money; focus on green buildings and solar power; look at fleets of bio-diesels; ways for cities to go more green—including residents;

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- bringing state highways under local control, what's involved, pitfalls, negotiations with the state;
- recreation and parks—address energy savings, new field services, traffic surrounding certain parks; focusing efforts is important and do it in 3 hours and finish up with a meal;
- sharing of public facilities; health issues;
- the Rosecrans off-ramp on the 405 going south; and
- collaboration with school districts—there is a need to constantly talk about what we do with schools.

Board Membr Szerlip pointed out that we have been very much on topic at the events and have been able to draw significantly well but not sustain the draw over the full day's program, and recommended reducing the timeframe of the program (3-4 hours rather than 6-7 hours).

Board Member Wolowicz added that it is difficult for many to balance their work day with a 6-7 hour event, and agreed with presenting a topic with conciseness, targeting lunch or dinner as the meal and let it go at that.

Jacki Bacharach said current SBCCOG studies will not be completed for them to be featured this year. The mixed-use study that will provide information to cities on strategies to address growth and the goods movement study will be ready in about a year.

BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS (8:45 pm)

Councilmember Parsons reported he spent a week in Colorado Springs with the Air Force and it reinforced the fact that we're still behind the 8-ball compared to several bases around the country as far as community support. He added that it is critical that the COG get on board with that. He also reminded members of the invitation from the El Segundo City Council to an event at The Lakes on September 6th 5:30 – 7:30 to meet the commanders and show the support from our whole region/South Bay, It won't just be an El Segundo event. RSVP 310-524-2302.

Board Member Busch added that this is a celebration and congratulatory event, noting that this means there's more weight and credibility that's being given to the LA Air Force Base.

Board Member Harold Williams introduced a member of the Carson Public Works Commission, Ron Smith, to the COG Board.

Board Member Nowatka introduced Kirk Wiedeman, from the Torrance/Lomita/Carson PIC.

Jacki Bacharach announced the hiring of Kathleen Jackson to help develop a project list that would be eligible for bond money, call for projects, and the \$1.6 million earmark. She encouraged Board members to ask their staff to work with Ms. Jackson when she comes to their city to discuss transportation priorities .

AGENCY REPORTS

League of California Cities (Ann Marie Wallace)

Ann Marie Wallace reported that there has been great representation by the South Bay and announced the procedure for the upcoming League Conference.

She reported that Curren Price would be serving on a traffic congestion panel at the League's annual conference in San Diego on Sept. 8th.

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Claudette Moody reported:

- Board approved moving forward with Call For Projects (first since 2001), noting there is a subregional emphasis;
- The Bond measure informational flyer was distributed;
- Long-range transportation is idle until the bond is determined;
- there are 300 bus operator vacancies and noted a new program with Valley Community College to

provide an innovative outreach for people to teach them how to communicate with the public and as a bus operator;

In response to Board Member Mitchell's comments regarding the fact that the Harbor Division rail line project is not in line for funding and whether or not there is interest in jump-starting the project, Renee Berlin stated that there is a technical feasibility analysis; the MTA has hired consultant to review public transit options, which will be finished in the fall and then reviewed by the sub-committee; and there is \$150,000 for a major investment study, depending on what comes out of the technical feasibility analysis. She noted that the Long-Range Plan does not have this line in it.

SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (Ron Ketcham)

Ron Ketcham reported that staff appreciates the COG and the support received; he has sent a letter to the city managers asking them to support AB 888 and SB 459 He offered to make a presentation at the cities, if desired.

Board Member Szerlip reported that the City of Redondo Beach recently received \$50,000 for purchasing low-emission vehicles.

Board Member Aldinger reported that 5 of the 10 worst polluting zip codes are in this COG.

South Bay Cities City Managers' Association (Geoff Dolan)

Manhattan Beach City Manager Geoff Dolan reported that he will be representing the managers group and will report as things come up. They will not meet next month because of the ICMA conference in San Antonio. In October they will meet in Rancho Palos Verdes at the Palos Verdes Interpretive Center.

Board Member Wolowicz announced that RPV City Manager Les Evans will be retiring and the city is conducting a search.

South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce (John Parsons)

Councilmember Parsons reported that the SBACC is taking positions on various bills, with a special focus on Prop. 90.

South Bay Economic Development Partnership (John Parsons)

Councilmember Parsons reported that the current focus is to prepare for the annual conference on October 18th.

SBCCOG UPDATE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- September 18: Tour of Green Line Extension Right of Way from Marine to the S.B. Galleria
- Invitations to Port of LA executive director and head of HCD, Lyn Jacobs,
- Looking for the services of a bookkeeper services. A formal RFP is out.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Merna Marshall
Secretary