

# ***South Bay Cities Council of Governments***

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## **SBCCOG Board of Directors' Meeting Thursday, November 16, 2006 @ 7:00 pm**

### ***City of Manhattan Beach - Police/Fire Facility***

Chair Aldinger called the meeting of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were the following members:

Eric Busch, El Segundo  
Jim Aldinger, Manhattan Beach  
Paul Nowatka, Torrance  
Michael Keegan, Hermosa Beach  
Steve Wolowicz, Rancho Palos Verdes  
John Parsons, Redondo Beach

Robert Pullen-Miles, Lawndale  
Dwight Abbott, Palos Verdes Estates  
Susan Dever, Lomita  
Harold Williams, Carson  
Susan Seamans, Rolling Hills Estates

Also in attendance were the following persons:

Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG  
Kim Fuentes, SBCCOG  
Claudette Moody, Deputy to Pam O'Connor  
Renee Berlin, Metro  
Pam O'Connor, Santa Monica Council & Metro  
Jerry Jeffe, Contract Cities Association  
Stephanie Molen, Deputy to Assemblyman Lieu  
Sharon Weissman, Deputy to Assemblymember Oropeza

Marilyn Lyon, SBESC  
Michele Swanson, SBESC  
Marisela Caraballo, Port of Los Angeles  
Geraldine Knatz, Port of Los Angeles  
Michael Christensen, Port of Los Angeles & Metro  
Arnold Sachs, Citizen  
Senator-Elect Jenny Oropeza  
Tammy Khan, Deputy to Senator Bowen

**Flag Salute** – led by the Board Member Nowatka

#### **Motion to accept and file report of City Clerk of Manhattan Beach on posting of the agenda**

**MOTION** by Board Member Aldinger, seconded by Board Member Parsons, 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

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** - none

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

**MOTION** by Board Member Abbott, seconded by Board Member Nowatka, to approve the Consent Calendar as presented with the addition of a project from the City of Gardena added to the SBCCOG Transportation Capital Improvement List. No objections. So ordered.

- A. October Board Meeting Minutes**
- B. SBCCOG Transportation Capital Improvement List as amended**
- C. 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financial Reports) – Receive and file**

#### **CEREMONIAL MATTERS**

Chair Aldinger presented plaques and certificates of appreciation to the following:

- A. Senator-Elect Jenny Oropeza** – Senator-Elect/Outgoing Assemblymember Oropeza thanked the Board for the COG's recognition. She stated that the COG is very important and that the coalition is greater than any one city by themselves. She ended stating that we will all work on the things cities need together.

**B. Assemblymember-Elect Laura Richardson** – was not in attendance, but Chair Aldinger stated that the COG will be mailing her congratulations and information about the SBCCOG.

**C. Senator Bowen** – Senator Bowen could not attend but Tammy Khan represented her. Chair Aldinger congratulated Senator Bowen on her election to the Office of Secretary of State and thanked her for her service to the South Bay. Khan thanked the COG on behalf of the Senator for its support and stated that she has been very happy to work with all the cities in the South Bay.

**Chair Aldinger** also showed that a certificate of appreciation that Assemblymember Ted Lieu sent to the SBCCOG Energy Savings Center that was presented at the recent press conference.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Guest Speaker - Geraldine Knatz, Executive Director, Port of Los Angeles:**

Ms. Knatz started her presentation with an overview of the Alameda Corridor which was a consolidation of 4 port access rail lines into a single 20 mile rail express line. She stated this project is very successful and reduces the amount of trucks that would be on the freeway today if it did not exist.

She then talked about what is going on at the port today:

- Appointment system
- Optical character recognition at the gate terminal – information does not have to be rekeyed at the gate
- Extended terminal gates – many of the operations are now in off peak hours which helps with congestion
- Free time reduction – reduces the time that containers sit at the terminal by assessing fees. This initiative provides a way to increase movement in the port
- RFID – tags on the trucks for tracking. This initiative will provide a method to help achieve fleet turnover in the next 5 years. About 50% of the fleet needs to be retired.

Ms. Knatz also stated that the port still has over \$6 hundred million in additional needs including more rail projects. In the normal evolution of port activity, about 10 years the facilities at the port will rebuilt from top to bottom. This is an ongoing process to meet the needs of current and future demand.

Other improvements include expansion of rail dock on Terminal Island as a tenant is closing down and a virtual container yard. The virtual container yard project would match up empty containers with merchants that need them. Presently one container will make 5 trips up and down the freeway to deliver and pick up loads at the port. With this project, the location of empty containers will be listed on the internet. This system could eliminate 1650 truck trips a day on the I-710 which are now carrying empty containers and it could be operational next year.

She also discussed regional transportation initiatives:

- Bond measures – the port has brought stakeholders together to create a list of projects. They worked through criteria to distribute the bond money. Ms. Knatz's goal is to get most of the money to Southern California and to do this the ports must work together. The work brought the Mayor of Los Angeles and Mayor of Long Beach together. Some of the projects on this list include the replacement of Gerald Desmond Bridge, Alameda Corridor east, local mainline rail improvements, and improvements on the I-710. Ms. Knatz also stated that these projects will also need additional funds such as container fees. The port is encouraging the merchants to start the process to help make sure the funds stay local.
- Environmental programs – capital improvements had stopped when Ms. Knatz first started working at the port because EIRs could not move forward due to health impacts. She worked to put a plan in place to deal with the health risk problem. This plan is known as the Clean Air

Action Plan. Both Harbor Commission's will approve the plan next month in a joint meeting which will be an historic first.

Questions for Ms. Knatz included:

- Board Member Wolowicz asked why the Alameda Corridor did not move the containers faster. Ms. Knatz stated that if it was not there today, there would be 1000s more trucks on the road . Some of the existing traffic on the line came from other lines when they were consolidated. There are 20 percent of the trucks going to the dock and 40,000 a day going in and out. The projections are 92,000 by 2020. She also stated that they were looking at new technology to move containers and that they are in the process of creating an RFP for a new technology prototype. Other activities are research on development of electric Heavy duty vehicles for short trips.
- Board Member Parsons stated that residents are experiencing reduced travel delays at local grade crossings due to the implementation of the Alameda Corridor.
- Chair Aldinger asked how much of the bond measure funds the port expects to get. Ms. Knatz stated that it was her goal to get 80% of the \$2 billion that is for the state. There is also \$1 billion for environmental impacts. The COG can help secure these funds for our region.
- Board Member Keegan asked if there are plans to use bio fuel for trucks. Ms. Knatz stated that they are doing a lot of testing of fuels, but bio fuel is not the fuel of choice because it creates higher NOX. The port is looking at other fuels.
- Board Member Abbott asked about China Shipping stating that he had been approached by a group of residents about 4 months ago. Ms. Knatz encouraged the electeds to review the environmental report as it provides reductions in health risks for the community and employees.

#### **MTA Nexus Study Update with Guest Speaker – Doug Kim, Los Angeles Metro:**

Mr. Kim presented an overview of the proposed congestion mitigation fee. The focus is to mitigate traffic impacts from new development. He stated that cities do a good job in mitigating traffic from local development, but sometimes not as well a few miles down the road and on the freeways. The Metro Board asked their staff to look into the developer impact fee and staff has been working on a concept. Now Metro would like to do local workshops to see if and how this fee would work for each city. Mr. Kim stated that they want to sit down with city staff and developers to see what needs to be done to make it work. He also stated that State law requires that Metro look at these issues.

His overview included the following points:

- All cities would have the same fee requirements for developers.
- The fee would be controlled locally and money would stay local.
- Cities would be encouraged to adopt the process because it will not work without all the cities participating.
- An Advisory Board has been formed with city and developer representatives, Metro still wants to meet with every city in the region.
- Metro believes that there will be benefits for cities by having additional funds and also that the process of doing roadway improvements can be streamlined.
- Two events are coming up: 1) Dec. 6 for city managers and 2) Dec. 7 a joint meeting of organizations.
- Ted Semaan, City of Torrance and Allen Rigg, City of Palos Verdes Estates, are the representatives from the SBCCOG on this committee.

Questions from the Board Members included:

- Chair Aldinger asked how cities would set up finance systems to use these funds. Ms. Berlin stated that it would be similar to Proposition C funds - in a separate account.
- Board Member Parsons asked what amount was being projected for cities to have for projects. Mr. Kim stated that they did not have a set amount yet.
- Board Member Busch asked what the time frame was and next steps. Mr. Kim stated that over the next 12 months, Metro was planning to meet with each city and work out the details. Mr. Kim

also stated that this program is covered under state law and worst case the state could withhold gas tax money as this program would become part of the **mandated** Congestion Mitigation Program (CMP).

- Board Member Busch asked if this program would affect single family home charges and what is the estimated amount per trip reduction Metro was anticipating. Mr. Kim restated that currently they do not have a number, but Metro will know better once they sit down with each city to figure out what the fee should be.
- Board Member Pullen Miles asked why the cities have to impose an ordinance. Mr. Kim stated that Metro has no authority to impose these fees on their own as cities have control over land use.
- Board Member Pullen Miles asked if cities would be able to take a portion for administration cost. Mr. Kim stated that usually agencies can take 5% for administration.
- Board Member Pullen Miles asked who would make the decision on how the funds would be used. Mr. Kim stated that decision would be made at the local or subregional level and that cities can implement the program on their own or through the COG.

## **REPORTS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

### **Legislative Committee Report**

**Legislative Priorities Update** – Ms. Bacharach stated that the Legislative Committee was in the process of updating the SBCCOG's Legislative Agenda, which will be used over the next year to focus the work of the committee and the SBCCOG's position on legislation. The document will be sent out to each of the Board Members and all of the SBCCOG's Committees and Working Groups for their input. It is anticipated that the Board would adopt the new agenda in January 2007. Chair Aldinger also extended an invitation for all Board Members to attend the Legislative Committee monthly meetings, which are scheduled on the third Tuesday of the month.

**AQMD Board Composition Change Update** – Ms. Bacharach reported that the League of California Cities Executive Committee has recommended a contribution of \$5,000 in support of this effort to their Board who will hear it in January. Gateway COG and Independent Cities have each contributed \$2,500 and the SBCCOG is expecting more agencies to make contributions. She will be going to Las Virgenes-Malibu next Tuesday to ask for their support. Westside Cities Council of Governments will be making a decision in January 2007. Chair Aldinger stated currently they are reviewing whether proposed legislation should be introduced with four or one new seats. The SBCCOG Board Members have been meeting with AQMD Board Members to determine whether there is a consensus approach.

### **Green Line Extension into the South Bay**

Update on alignment discussions – The SBCCOG has received a letter from the City of Redondo Beach requesting the SBCCOG support the extension of the Green Line into the South Bay and to take actions to see that it gets implemented. Ms. Bacharach stated that the discussion on extending the Green Line through the South Bay started with the SBCCOG tour of the proposed 1990 alignment on Sept 18. Currently this alignment is in Metro's Strategic (unfunded) Long Range Plan Ms. Bacharach stated that if the South Bay wants the Green Line extension they need to start working on it now, because it takes many years of work to make a project like this a reality. She also stated that the City Council of Lawndale is strongly opposed to the alignment going through their city. There was general discussion from Board Members about possible different routes. Ms. Bacharach stated that the SBCCOG would need to meet with Redondo Beach and Torrance to discuss viable alternative routes. Starting in January 2007, Metro will be updating their long-range plan and this would be a good time to ask Metro to elevate the project in their plan.

Member discussion included the following points:

- Chair Aldinger stated that he would like the extension to at least go to the airport and that the SBCCOG should be advocating this position. The SBCCOG should be also talking to the City of Los Angeles. He also stated that the SBCCOG should be supporting extension going north also.

- Board Member Parsons stated that the City of Redondo Beach really wants to see the extension into the South Bay at least to the Galleria.
- Ms. O'Connor stated that there might be funding sources from LAX that could be used to support the extension. She stated that there is a synergy between the Westside Cities, the South Bay, and LAX.
- Board Member Pullen Miles stated that the concern for Lawndale is that they do not want the city to be divided by the line cutting through the city and going down Hawthorne Blvd.
- Board Member Wolowica asked if there was a plan to take the Green Line down the I-110. Ms. O'Connor responded in the negative stating that the Transitway goes down the I-110.
- Ms. Bacharach stated that the SBCCOG would have the same problem as last time if the cities are fragmented and Lawndale continues to oppose.
- Board Member Parsons stated the extension is really an economic development tool that the City of Lawndale could use.
- Board Member Abbott asked if the line could be brought up the hill. Ms. Bacharach stated it probably could not because the technology will not allow it.
- Board Member Parsons asked if Torrance was supporting the extension and Board Member Nowatka stated that the City of Torrance is considering it. But he is concerned that Torrance sister city Lawndale is not supporting it. He stated that the City of Torrance is staying open-minded.
- Board Member Pullen Miles stated that he would like to see other options for the alignment. Ms. Berlin stated that usually that is what occurs in the environmental process. Ms. O'Connor stated that projects get moved forward not only on merits, but must have the political support as well. If the Green Line extension is going to happen at an earlier date than projects scheduled in Metro's Long Range plan, the South Bay needs to pull together the political will. The SBCCOG will need to keep the pressure on and build a coalition. It is easy to pull a project out of Metro's plan, but the SBCCOG needs it get it in so it can move forward. Ms. Moody stated that it took seven years to go through the subway extension EIR process in the valley. It is a long process and there are a lot of hurdles within each step.
- Board Member Parsons stated that the SBCCOG could request that the line to be extended now and continue to work out the details.
- Ms. Bacharach restated that the City of Redondo Beach has asked the SBCCOG to support the Green Line extension through the South Bay as a priority project. She recommended that the SBCCOG start studying what will be needed.
- Board Member Parsons asked if the City of Lawndale would be supportive if the alignment stayed on the Santa Fe right of way.
- Board Member Pullen Miles stated again that the City of Lawndale does not want the alignment to go down Hawthorne. He asked if it could go east of the I-405. Ms. Bacharach stated due to cost the alignment needed to not criss-cross the freeway.
- Board Member Busch asked the City of Lawndale that if the alignment did not go through Lawndale at all, would they support the extension. Board Member Pullen Miles stated yes as long as the line stays outside of the city. He restated that the Council does not want the city to be divided by the line. He also stated that maybe it could run along Inglewood Ave.
- Board Member Parsons made a motion to support the extension of the Green Line as a priority project for the South Bay. Board Member Keegan seconded the motion. All in favor with Board Member Pullen Miles opposed.

**Energy Center Projects Update** – Michele Swanson, South Bay Energy Savings Center provided an update on the program activities. There are currently two programs scheduled for Saturday on landscaping that are full. The Center staff is working on setting up more classes. Participants turn in their old sprinkler unit and get a new energy efficient one for free that is valued at \$400. The Center staff is also working on commercial building workshops for apartment and condo owners and associations. Ms. Lyon stated that this is the first time staff will be working with multi family homes. Other current activities include a Christmas light exchange where residents bring in two old strands of lights and receive two new sets free.

Ms. Swanson also reported on the success of the press conference in which CPUC Commissioner Dian Grueneich spoke recognizing our new partnership of water, gas and electric agencies. The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has made partnerships with water companies one of their priorities. The PUC has set aside \$10 million for pilots throughout the state to bring together energy and water companies. The press conference kicked-off the Center's work on water conservation and the new logo which now incorporates water.

Ms. Swanson also referenced the article about the event in the Daily Breeze. She thanked all the Board Members that attended. In addition, the Center staff has met with the City of Torrance separately as they are the only city in the South Bay not covered by the West Basin Municipal Water District and the issues of joining the SBESC partnership will be coming before the Torrance City Council.

Regarding joint procurement for lighting, Ms. Swanson stated the RFB has gone out to the contractors. She stated that this project will most likely be the first of many, but getting to this point has been a slow process. She stated that currently there are five to seven cities that are participating. Also, the SBCCOG has received four resolutions from cities supporting their city's participation in the joint procurement program and others are expected soon. Ms. Bacharach will be sending out an e-mail reminder.

Ms. Swanson reported on the PSA promoting energy conservation that is currently running at the Rolling Hills Plaza Cinemas. Ms. Bacharach complimented the ad and stated the Rolling Hills Plaza cinema had given the center a discount and made it affordable. She asked if any city could help place the ad in their theatres, to please let them know. Board Member Wolowicz stated he would like the ad to run on channel 33. Ms. Swanson stated that they were going to try and obtain several copies to use in different formats. Ms. Bacharach also encouraged Board members to bring center materials or staff with them as they go out to their communities.

#### **BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Board Member Dever stated that Lomita City Hall improvements have been completed including the opening of the atrium. The city held an event on Veterans Day to showcase the improvements. She stated that the atrium was funded from a foundation in memory of a former mayor which gave \$250,000 for the project. The rest of the project was funded by the city.
- Board Member Seamans stated that the City of Rolling Hills Estates had their "Last Pole" ceremony attended by LA County Supervisor Don Knabe. The city has been under grounding their utilities on Crenshaw Blvd. and this was the last pole to come out. She also stated that the city has a couple of new shops that just opened in the Avenue and encouraged members to come.
- Board Member Keegan stated that January 14, 2007 is the 100-year anniversary of the City of Hermosa Beach. The city will be having an event on that day from 1-7 p.m. with a band in the Plaza. The city will be sending notices out to all the cities. The SBCCOG will forward the information to all cities as well. Board Member Keegan stated that the city will celebrate this event for the whole year.
- Chairman Aldinger stated that the City of Manhattan Beach is undergoing a facility needs program including residents' input. It is called "Dream It, Plan It, Do It".

#### **AGENCY REPORTS**

League of California Cities – Board Member Seamans reported that the League of California Cities is meeting to discuss Proposition 90 next steps since proponents of the measure say that they will introduce it again. The League is reviewing issues including the definition of blight and how it effects residential homes. She stated that it is the number one issue on the League's list.

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority – Pam O'Connor, Council Member, Santa Monica and Metro reported on the following:

- The Consent Decree placed on Metro which has directed much of the policy decisions in the last 10 years, has ended. Metro has pledged to continue the work of improving and enhancing bus services.
- Metro was been named Operator of the Year, by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). For the next year, all distributed materials and buses will carry the Operator of the Year symbol.
- Metro is very please at the passage of Propositions 1A, 1B and 1C. Now the hard work of divvying up the funds begins. With 1B, every category has a slightly different method for how the money will be allocated. Many of the categories will be allocated according to budget appropriations, including the streets and roads funding for local jurisdictions. Others will require “trailer” bills such as the Goods Movement Funding which may be based on the Governor’s Goods Movement study. She stated that it is Metro’s understanding that the STIP funding schedule for submitting projects may be in the spring of 2007. This list will rely heavily upon the projects in the Long Range Transportation Plan.
- Long Range Transportation Plan - it is anticipated that update efforts will begin again the first of the year. She stated that she would keep the SBCCOG informed of the schedule for discussion and input opportunities.
- John Catoe, currently Metro Deputy CEO, will be leaving Metro for WMATA in Washington, D.C. Carolyn Flowers will be acting as interim for the next few months.
- The next Metro Board meeting is December 7, at 9:30 a.m. The reports from the committee meetings will be on that agenda.
- The Metro Planning and Programming Committee approved an item yesterday, which releases \$72.6 million in FY 2007 additional State Transit Assistance funds for transit operators in Los Angeles County. This release was partially in response to a motion the SBCCOG heard at the September Board meeting brought forward by Ms. O'Connor. The funding was unanticipated dollars which were made available after the passage of the Metro '07 Budget. The funds will be distributed according to the Formula Allocation Program.
- The Planning and Programming Committee recommended for Board adoption the 2007 Call for Projects Application. Many of the SBCCOG’s city staffs participated in the workshops on the Call for Projects. The Metro Board plans to adopt the final application on December 7 with the Applications DUE on January 26, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. NO EXCEPTIONS. The process continues after that with an evaluation and a final approval in July by the Metro Board.
- The Executive Management and Audit Committee (EMAC) recommended for Board adoption the 2007 Metro Legislative Program. On the federal side, Metro will be seeking funding for \$80 million for the Eastside Metro Gold Line extension, \$10 million for bus, and language to have Expo Phase I count as the match for Expo Phase II.
- The EMAC also recommended for Board adoption the implementation as a trial service the “Super” or Express Rapid on Wilshire. The super service will skip several stops on Wilshire route and significantly improve travel times for patrons. If the trial is successful, the program may be implemented on other rapid lines.

**SCAG & Committees** - Darin Chidsey, Southern California Association of Governments, reported that RHNA workshop are being held in all subregions with maps so that city staff can visualize and note where growth is occurring and where it should be planned. Chair Aldinger commented that cities had the opportunity to say where they should put their houses and jobs. Mr. Chidsey stated that most cities were in attendance and that SCAG received good input.

Transportation and Communication – Board Member Szerlip and Chair Aldinger reported that the committee discussed the SCAG Long Range Plan and the bond measures that just passed. Board Member Keegan asked how much cities will get. Board Member Szerlip stated that it is based on population and the League is working on this issue. He stated that cities will be getting a lot of funding.

Ms. Bacharach reported on SCAG's Overall Work Program Projects that the SBCCOG was submitting for 2007-08. These projects include:

- Model corridor project, which integrated SCAG's current work on freeway monitoring and performance measurement on the I-405 with South Bay arterials.
- Expansion of the SBCCOG Mixed Use Centers work to look at the economics of what is needed to make the land uses into the choices that cities want
- Neighborhood vehicle study, which also builds on the SBCCOG Mixed Use Center work. Several of the cities studied stated that they are interested in promoting a neighborhood vehicle pilot in their centers and this study would develop a plan to implement such a program.
- Peninsula Slow Speed Network would create a plan for the Peninsula cities to develop a coordinated network for bikes, walking and other slow speed transportation modes.

Regional Council – Board Member Nowatka and Chair Aldinger reported that the SCAG Regional Council will be meeting December 14. Last month there was some discussion on delegation of the RHNA process to the subregions and concern regarding funding and indemnification. At the last meeting SCAG stated that they are trying to get money and will get it back to cities. Chair Aldinger stated that now SCAG has budgeted \$250,000 for cities to do delegation and SCAG will indemnify any subregion who accepts delegation. Board Member Nowatka stated that SCAG also provided city growth projections. He stated that SCAG is taking input from cities and changing right on the spot.

**SBCCOG UPDATE AND COMMITTEE REPORTS** – Ms. Bacharach reported on the General Assembly stating that the SBCCOG has already received sponsorships from Edison, Watson Land, Daily Breeze, and Chevron Products Company. The theme this year is transportation. Chair Aldinger asked if Metro could be a sponsor for the General Assembly. Ms. Moody replied that Metro can provide publicity for the event and she will look into it. Ms. Bacharach stated that she needed help getting sponsors and speakers and asked for Board members to call. There was general discussion from the Board about various sponsors. Ms. Bacharach will follow up with Laidlaw and other vendors that service our South Bay transit operators. She will also ask Terisa Price and Kim Turner for their suggestions. The Board would like to see ITS displays, things that draw people and press to come, and would like to see Honda display alternative fuel vehicles.

**UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Ms. Bacharach reported that the PUC had recently denied a petition for statewide 10-digit dialing.

**DECEMBER & JANUARY SBCCOG COMMITTEE MEETINGS & WORKING GROUPS**

Consult web site for specific times and places – [www.southbaycities.org](http://www.southbaycities.org)

**ADJOURNMENT**

Board Member Seamans made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 p.m.