

SOUTH BAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2013
SOUTH BAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THEATER
20285 S. WESTERN AVENUE, 1ST FLOOR, TORRANCE, CA 90501

I. **CALL TO ORDER & SALUTE TO THE FLAG-** Chair Medina called the SBCCOG Board of Directors meeting to order at 6:04 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Board Member Osborne.

II. **INTRODUCTIONS**

In attendance were the following voting members:

Suzanne Fuentes, El Segundo
Dan Medina, Gardena
Jeff Duclos, Hermosa Beach
Jim Osborne, Lawndale
Mark Burton, Manhattan Beach
Jim Gazeley, Lomita
Joe Buscaino, Los Angeles, 15th District

Jim Knight, Rancho Palos Verdes
Pat Aust, Redondo Beach
Bea Dieringer, Rolling Hills
Judy Mitchell, Rolling Hills Estates
Tom Brewer, Torrance
David Riccitiello, LA County SD2
Steve Napolitano, LA County SD4

Other Elected Officials:

Kurt Weideman, Torrance

Also in attendance were the following persons:

Alexander Gurfinkel, Assemblyman Hall
Jacob Haik, Los Angeles, 15th District
Kevin O'Brien, Grassroots Lab
Jeff Kiernan, League of CA Cities
Steve Arakawa, MWD
Charles Gale, MWD
Pam O'Connor, Metro
Stephanie Wiggins, Metro
Mike Bohlke, Metro Director O'Connor
Sam Ekrami, Parsons Brinckerhoff
Jenn Alderete, SBCCOG

Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG
Sabrina Bornstein, SBCCOG
Natalie Champion, SBCCOG
Kim Fuentes, SBCCOG
Marcy Hiratzka, SBCCOG
Rosemary Lackow, SBCCOG
Catherine Showalter, SBCCOG
Steve Lantz, SBCCOG Consultant
Linda Jones, SCAG
Rob Beste, Torrance

III. **CONFIRM POSTING OF THE AGENDA BY TORRANCE CITY CLERK** - Jacki Bacharach confirmed that the agenda was properly posted in the City of Torrance.

IV. **ANNOUNCEMENTS OF ANY CHANGES TO THE AGENDA** – Chair Medina announced that Item VI.D (legislative matrix) was removed from the consent calendar so that SB 594 could be added, and a revised matrix was distributed at the meeting; the agenda also failed to list a recommendation and required action for Item X (Board approval to authorize an RFP to be circulated for a strategic plan exercise and agreement to participate in a full day workshop with the Board).

V. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC-** None

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. **July Board Meeting Minutes** (*attachment*) – **Approved**; Board Members Knight and Mitchell abstained from the approval of the July Board Meeting Minutes.
- B. **2013-2014 Contract with West Basin Municipal Water District** (*attachments*) – **Approved**
- C. **Amendment to SBCCOG Contract with Jacki Bacharach & Associates** (*attachment*) – **Approved**
- D. **Selection of SBHP Technical Consultant Bench Firms** (*attachment*) – **Approved**
- E. **Measure R Quarterly Status Report** (*attachment*) – **Received and filed**

MOTION by Board Member Aust, seconded by Board Member Osborne, to **approve** the Consent Calendar as submitted, with the removal of Item VI.D. No objection. So ordered.

F. **Legislation** (*attachment*) – ~~**Approve**~~ REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

1. SB 556 – oppose

MOTION by Board Member Mitchell, seconded by Board Member Brewer, that the SBCCOG **oppose** SB 556 as submitted. Ayes: 14; Nays: 0, Abstain: 0

2. SB 594 – oppose

MOTION by Board Member Aust, seconded by Board Member Mitchell, that the SBCCOG **oppose** SB 594 as submitted. Jeff Kiernan suggested a **friendly amendment**, which requested the SBCCOG's participation (via letter of intent) in a new coalition created by the League to oppose this bill, and requires that the SBCCOG's logo be used by the coalition, along with the other participating COGs. Ayes: 14; Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

VII. PRESENTATIONS

A. Update on Bay Delta Water Issues

Rob Beste, IWG Chair & Torrance Public Works Director, introduced Steve Arakawa and Charles Gale of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The Bay Delta (although located in Northern California) contributes a large share of water to Southern California. The Delta is in jeopardy of collapse as a result of the state's increasing population, demand for water, and changing environmental conditions, in addition to other factors. The Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) is part of a comprehensive plan for Delta sustainability to avert ecological disaster and maintain reliable water supplies. Mr. Arakawa played a video about the plan, which can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LkEzTuxVCyA>. Two informational documents were distributed: A general overview of the BDCP, and a list of the benefits, costs, and economic impacts of the proposed plan and its alternatives.

B. Status Report on I-110 ExpressLanes

Stephanie Wiggins, Metro Project Manager, gave an update on Metro's 1-year pilot program on the I-110 and I-10. The goal of this pilot is to move more *people* on the freeways, not more *vehicles*. Metro will not interpret the program's data until February 2014, one year after the deployment of the Expresslanes on the I-10, which was implemented several months after the Expresslanes on the I-110. This program is subject to a Federal evaluation, once completed, as it was funded by a Federal grant. Ms. Wiggins summarized the rules and penalties that the program enforces, preliminary results, ridership trends, and status of the maintenance fee (the SBCCOG was instrumental in getting the Metro Board to waive this temporarily.) Several Board Members stated that while driving on the I-110, they do not see anyone using the ExpressLanes, and often hear complaints from their constituents who are upset about having to pay to carpool now when it was free before. Ms. Wiggins responded that Metro's preliminary data indicates that ridership has consistently increased over time,

and that Metro's goal of 100,000 participants by the end of the pilot already exceeds 200,000 August 2013. Board Member Osborne said that he noticed that the amount of money Metro is spending on postage to mail citations for this program often exceeds the actual citation fees and asked why Metro is willing to lose money this way. Ms. Wiggins emphasized that the integrity of the system is vital when asking people to change their behavior, and that the collecting the money is not the issue. Ms. Wiggins also stated that the issue of the maintenance fee will come back to the Metro Board in October and the recommendation will probably be a permanent waiver of the fee for LA County residents. Jacki Bacharach stated that the SBCCOG will be sending a letter to support that recommendation and will be requesting the same from South Bay cities and Chambers as we did before.

C. Report on the California Air Resources Board

Board Member Judy Mitchell provided a look into her service as a member of the California Air Resources Board, an appointment from Governor Brown. She joins a Board of 11, comprised of elected officials and experts from all over the state, and serves on the Board representing our local pollution-control agency, the South Coast Air Quality Management District. Board Member Mitchell focused on the AB 32 Scoping Plan, which describes the approach California will take to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) and achieve the goal of reducing emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. The Scoping Plan was first approved by the Board in 2008 and must be updated every five years to evaluate the mix of AB 32 policies to ensure that California is on track to achieve the 2020 GHG reduction goal. In early 2013, ARB will initiate activities to update the AB 32 Scoping Plan. Board Member Mitchell also talked about the Cool California Small Business Awards, which recognizes small businesses that reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, promote climate and environmentally friendly practices, and integrate the tools on CoolCalifornia.org into their business operations. She also mentioned the Federal EPA's Clean Air Excellence Awards, which honor individuals and organizations for similar accomplishments in five different categories. Board Member Mitchell concluded by stating that she is grateful for the SBCCOG's support in getting appointed to this position, and looks forward to collaborating with others at the CARB to address the impacts of mobile sources.

VIII. TRANSPORTATION REPORTS

A. Metro Report by Board member Pam O'Connor

As the MTA Board was dark this month, Director O'Connor spoke about several items that will be on the September 26 MTA Board agenda. A recommendation will be made to implement a competitive process for Metro's "Open Streets" program, modeled after the highly successful CicLAvia bike-riding extravaganza. Coordinated street closures encourage residents to walk, bicycle, skate, and gather in spaces normally occupied by motor traffic. Through the Open Streets program, Metro would administer a competitive grant process allowing non-profit organizations, independent cities, and other public agencies to compete for funds, which would allow them to host their own events. Also to go before the Board on September 26 is the 2013 Call for Projects recommendation and TAC appeals.

B. Service Council report by Board Member Franklin- Not present

C. Measure R Oversight Committee Report

1. Steve Lantz announced the new Measure R project under construction on Maple Avenue in El Segundo and showed a picture of the city's required signage, displaying the Metro, City, and SBCCOG logos.

2. Letter to Metro with Potential List of Projects for Possible Sales Tax (*attachment*)

Tabled; to be brought back next month, due to deadline being extended. Steve Lantz relayed that (former MTA Board Chair) Supervisor Antonovich requested that the COGs of LA County submit their transportation priorities and concerns, regarding a new sales tax in 2014. This is a bottom-up approach instead of a top-down approach. Mr. Lantz also said that Mayor Garcetti recently held a summit for the mayors in LA County, and the same issue was discussed there. Lakewood Mayor and new MTA Board Chair, Diane DuBois, sent a letter to city mayors

asking for their local priorities and extended the due date for the letter from September 4 to October 4. The SBCCOG is asking that South Bay cities share their lists with the SBCCOG so that we can coordinate and remain consistent with their responses. An additional attachment NOT included in this Board packet was Diane DuBois' letter to the mayors, and Metro's list of eligible uses of various funds. The Board packet DID contain the SBCCOG's draft initial response, and the list of the SBCCOG's priorities for a potential transportation sales tax as well as Supervisor Antonovich's letter to the COGs. Steve Lantz said that this new sales tax does not have to be a continuation of Measure R or J; it can have completely different rules. This list will be redrafted to include cities' input, should a time extension be granted. Board Member Riccitiello was concerned about the following language in the third paragraph of the SBCCOG's letter, "*We believe that a first priority of a future ballot measure must be a program that delivers a geographically balanced allocation that more closely returns sales tax revenues to the sub-region of origin in proportion to the sales tax collected in the sub-region.*" He believed that would not go over well with Metro. Steve Lantz justified that the South Bay is a sub-region that is often overlooked in terms of funding, and the SBCCOG wants to emphasize the need for equality. The SBCCOG can propose that the policy of determining which city gets which percentage of funds is actually fair. A revised version of this letter to Chair DuBois will come before the SBCCOG Board next month, since the due date has been extended.

- C. Monthly Transportation Report from Steve Lantz (attachment) – Received and filed**
Mr. Lantz highlighted from this report articles called *CA Highways Among Worst in Nation; Increased State Gas Tax May Help, Labor Agreement Discord Forces Feds to Freeze California's Transit Funds*, and *Metro to Study Conversion of I-405 HOV Lanes to Express Lanes*.

IX. SOUTH BAY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CENTER UPDATES

Jacki Bacharach announced that Catherine Showalter has submitted her resignation and will be leaving the SBCCOG at the end of the month. Jacki thanked Catherine for doing an outstanding job in helping the SBESC continue to grow and serve our cities. Catherine Showalter gave the following updates:

- The latest list of SBESC community events and workshops was distributed.
- On September 5 in Lennox, the SBESC is hosting a workshop IN SPANISH about residential energy and water conservation. Flyer was distributed.
- The SBESC is hosting a series of workshops (all different topics) through September and November at the SBCCOG office. Flyer was distributed.

X. SBCCOG ISSUES AND REPORTS

Jacki Bacharach made the following announcements:

- Strategic Planning - The Steering Committee is proposing that a strategic planning workshop be conducted with the Board members and at least some City Managers. Board members were asked whether they would agree to participate so that the SBCCOG can move forward with hiring a consultant. Board members will be polled for the best date and time when the consultant has been hired.

MOTION by Board Member Duclos, seconded by Board Member Brewer, to **approve** the release of a Request for Proposal for strategic plan/goal-setting facilitation with elected officials. No objections. So ordered.

- A flyer on the SBCCOG's 2014 Annual General Assembly was distributed. The date is February 28, 2014 and the theme will be "Why Must We Care: The Cost of the Changing Environment on the South Bay." It will discuss the domino effect of the cost of electricity, transportation, water, temperature increase, and health care and this effect's impact on the South Bay.
- The SBCCOG and the South Bay Area Chamber of Commerce are co-hosting a "Getting to Know You" mixer and meeting on October 30, 2013 at the SBCCOG office from 5-8pm. This event will include brief remarks by the SBCCOG and SBACC Chairs and Senior Economist, Kimberly Ritter-Martinez, of the LAEDC.

- On July 29, the SBCCOG held a debriefing on its pilot Local Use Vehicle plan specifically for auto manufacturers. It was well-attended and the PowerPoint presentations, as well as a video of the entire event, can be found at <http://southbaycities.org/news/neighborhood-electric-vehicles-nev-demonstration-project-report>
- An Electric Load Calculation worksheet and Residential Electric Vehicle Charger Installation Guidelines have been drafted by SBCCOG staff and sent to cities for their input. The goal is for these worksheets to be displayed on cities' planning counters for residents to take. In a few weeks they will be posted on the SBCCOG website.

XI. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Aust: John Parsons, former SBCCOG Chair and Redondo Beach Councilman, passed away on August 22. Memorial service information has been distributed to all SBCCOG Board Members.
- Buscaino and Medina: The Cities of Los Angeles and Gardena will adjourn their next City Council meetings in Mr. Parsons' memory.
- Knight: The City of Rancho Palos Verdes submitted a Notice of Intent for Development of an Enhanced Watershed Management Program for the Peninsula Watershed IWMP Agencies.
- Buscaino: He announced that as of July 1, 2013, when he was elected to his first 4-year term and hopes to start attending as many SBCCOG member City Council meetings and SBCCOG events as he can. He has an open door policy and looks forward to more exchanges with the SBCCOG.
- Medina: On August 25, Gardena will hold its 11th Annual Jazz Festival at Rowley Park at 11am.
- Fuentes: Yesterday El Segundo held its opening for a new lifeguard station at El Segundo Beach. Thanks to Supervisor Knabe's office for the partnership.
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XII. AGENCY REPORTS

- A. **League of California Cities** – Jeff Kiernan distributed a flyer for the Local Cities Meeting with Senator Ted Lieu on September 16 at the Santa Monica Library at 10:00 am. He also distributed an informational handout on opposition to Senate Bill 594. SB 439, which Mr. Kiernan spoke on last month did not pass out of Committee and therefore has been stopped. This would have put marijuana dispensaries in a special category and not allowed cities to take Nuisance Abatement Actions against them. Annual Conference registrations are still being accepted. Aug 28 the LA Division is holding an economic development conference at the Crowne Plaza in San Pedro (half-day event.)
- B. **South Coast Air Quality Management District** – Board Member Mitchell reported that, despite much vocal opposition from some beachgoers, the South Coast Air Quality Management District board approved restrictions on fire pits on Southland beaches. The restrictions require fire pits to be kept at least 700 feet away from the nearest residence. The rings can be closer than 700 feet to residences if the rings are at least 100 feet apart from each other -- or at least 50 feet apart if a city has 15 or fewer rings. The measure also includes restrictions on beach fires on high-pollution days. The restrictions also include pilot programs for fire rings powered by natural or propane gas instead of wood. The board voted 7-6 to approve the restrictions, despite a lengthy public hearing during which supporters of the fire pits decried any effort to restrict or ban the fires.
 1. **Local Government and Business Advisory Group**- Jacob Haik reported that the group has not met for the last 2 months but will reconvene in September. Nothing to report.
- C. **SCAG & Committees**
 1. **Energy and Environment** – Board Member Mitchell said that she attended a demonstration by Tesla on electric battery change-outs.
 2. **Transportation**- Chair Medina reported that a presentation was made by the FAA and FCC, in order to provide surveillance helicopters for assisting police departments. The helicopters would be wireless and not exceed 400 feet. The Committee was hesitant to adopt the concept, as it may be easy for civilians to tamper with the wireless frequencies involved.
 3. **Community, Economic, & Human Development**- As Board Member Gazeley left the meeting early, there was no one to report.

4. **Regional Council**– Chair Medina reported that SCAG is still partnering with the California High Speed Rail Authority to plan and coordinate the development of high speed passenger rail service in the SCAG region and beyond. At present, routes have not been determined, nor land acquired. SCAG is working quickly to orient its new members before the 2014 General Assembly (in May). MTA Director O’Connor added that SCAG will hold an economic summit on December 5th at the Omni Hotel in Downtown LA.
- D. **Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission**- Board Member Duclos reported that the Commission recently reviewed and approved the FY 2014 Work Plan. This was part of the National Estuary Program. There is a 15% deduction in grant funding this year, but the Work Plan was ambitious. Board Member Duclos also mentioned the Commission’s relatively new Rain Barrel and Rain Garden Programs.
- E. **South Bay Cities City Managers’ Association**- Not Present
- F. **South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce**- Not Present
- G. **South Bay Workforce Investment Board**- Not Present

XIV. UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

XV. SEPTEMBER SBCCOG COMMITTEE MEETINGS & WORKING GROUPS

September 9 Measure R Oversight Committee
Steering Committee

Consult website for specific times and places for other meetings – www.southbaycities.org

XVI. ADJOURNMENT TO SEPTEMBER 26, 2013

At 8:56pm, the SBCCOG Board of Directors adjourned their meeting in memory of John Parsons, former SBCCOG Board Chair and Redondo Beach Councilman, to September 26, 2013.