South Bay Cities Council of Governments

South Bay Watch

Summer 2011

A quarterly bulletin to inform local leaders of subregional progress and alert them to emerging issues

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SOUTH BAY CITIES FUND 43 MEASURE "R" HIGHWAY PROJECTS IN THE SOUTH BAY

Los Angeles County voters approved a ½ percent sales tax for transportation on the November 2008 ballot including $906 million to improve operations and address congestion on South Bay highways and freeways.

The SBCCOG has been working since July 2010 with our cities, L. A. County, Metro and Caltrans to identify projects that would qualify for this funding. The project needs during the 30 year life of the sales tax grew into a list of projects which will cost twice as much as the $906 million; so the SBCCOG will be looking for other funds as well as the local sales tax to construct the entire list.

The initial allocation of funds from Metro was $176.55 million. In order to realize a quick return, it was agreed that we would create a set of early action projects – ones that could be completed within five years of receiving their funding. Of the 40 Early Action projects totaling $146 million that were identified, 19 should start receiving their funding this summer. The projects include improvements that will benefit the operation of the I-405, I-110, I-105, and SR-91 in the South Bay by adding capacity and improving the flow of traffic, on ramps, highways and streets that feed the freeways. The types of Early Action Plan improvements include street widenings, lane re-alignments, signal synchronization and integrated system management, additional turning lanes, safety improvements, and park and ride projects. (for the full list, go to www.soutbaycities.org)

Additionally, larger projects were analyzed for future implementation. By allocating some 'seed' money for design and environmental clearance, when additional sources of funds become available, the larger projects should be ready to compete for non-Measure R funds as they are made available. The 3 strategic positioning projects included for early funding are for preliminary project development on:

1) a new flyover ramp connecting the Northbound I-405 to Southbound I-110
2) operational improvements on I-405 and 182nd Street- by Caltrans for freeway ramp elements
3) new auxiliary lane on Southbound I-110 from I-405 to Del Amo undercrossing.

The South Bay Cities are the first in the county to adopt an Early Action Plan and to begin to strategically position projects that cannot be implemented within the first five years of the program to be developed, environmentally approved and constructed as soon as additional Measure R funds are available.

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NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE YOUR HOME ENERGY EFFICIENT!!!

Up to $6000 Summer Rebates are Available

ENERGY UPGRADE CA SUMMER OF SAVINGS
Los Angeles County Announces a Special Summer $6,000 Rebate

South Bay homeowners can enjoy a summer of savings by taking advantage of this special rebate available through Labor Day. Energy Upgrade CA rebates currently top out at up to $4,500. With the Los Angeles County's new summer rebate of $1,500, that's up to a cool $6,000 for homeowners who invest in energy savings through the Energy Upgrade CA program.

Visit www. energyupgradeCA.org today OR contact the South Bay Environmental Services Center and learn how you can enjoy energy and financial savings that will last long beyond this summer!

WATER SUPPLY - IS THE GLASS HALF FULL OR HALF EMPTY?

Gov. Brown declared the drought to be over. This season's storms and the public's continued conservation and water use efficiency efforts have resulted in improved regional supply conditions. The region's largest storage reservoir, Diamond Valley Lake, is nearly full after being less than half full in the summer of 2009, and the Metropolitan Water District has more than a full-year's worth of supply deliveries in reserve. Metropolitan General Manager Jeffrey Kightlinger said the district anticipates storing up to 800,000 acre-feet of water this year, nearly equivalent to the amount that can be stored in Diamond Valley Lake.

"We join our member agencies and retailers throughout the region in thanking consumers for their water-saving efforts," said Metropolitan board Chairman John V. Foley. "Continued wise water practices will be necessary in order to maintain our reserves. This is a welcome respite from more acute shortage conditions we have faced in recent years."

So What's the Problem?

For starters, improved short-term conditions do not signal an end to the region's long-term water challenges. Our future water supplies cannot keep up with the increasing water demands caused by population growth, the increasing cost of energy to keep the water clean, climate change impacts, and basic evaporation. Because of the extensive development in Southern California and the fact that we are in a flood threat area, most of our rain is channeled to the ocean. Rain in Southern California is not a significant factor in providing our water supplies when compared to the vast amounts of water that is imported here.

We get most of our water from Northern California and the Colorado River. Both of these sources are becoming less reliable. Despite Sierra Nevada snowpack conditions that are thankfully far above normal, Metropolitan will not receive a full supply from Northern California this year because of environmental problems and pumping restrictions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. There are environmental requirements that limit the amount of water that can be moved from north to south in California.

The Colorado River has experienced many years of drought and is at record lows. Lake Mead, its major reservoir, is at its lowest level since it was first filled decades ago.

According to West Basin Municipal Water District, more than one climate study predicts that the Colorado River basin will face extremely dry conditions in the future.

So What's the Solution?

To meet future needs, even in very rainy years, we will need to be more efficient with the water that we do have. West Basin Municipal Water District's service area has done a great job conserving 20% of the water used in homes and businesses over the past couple of years.

Conserving water and maintaining wise-water use remains as essential as ever and must continue to be a permanent way of life in Southern California.

A long-term, comprehensive package of water system / ecosystem improvements is necessary in the Delta in order to improve long-term water reliability for the water districts and much of California. A comprehensive plan is being developed via the state-federal Bay Delta Conservation Plan, which Metropolitan strongly supports.

What Can Each of Us Do?

- Take the Water Reliability 2020 Pledge to save 20 gallons per day per family member
- Take an Ocean Friendly Workshop and turn your garden into a sponge
- Teach your children about saving water through West Basin's WaterStar program
- Follow your city's local watering ordinances. You can find them on the web. Go to *www.southbaycities.org* for a complete listing of cities.

Find us at www.sbesc.com

City Showcase

IMPROVED PIER AVENUE – REVITALIZES HERMOSA BEACH'S MAIN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN COMMERCIAL DISTRICT BETWEEN VALLEY DRIVE AND HERMOSA AVENUE

The City of Hermosa Beach was the recipient of a recent EPA award received through their Southwest Region's 2010 Environmental Awards program in recognition of the Pier Avenue Improvement Project's Low Impact Development approach to improving water runoff. The project eliminates all dry weather flows to the maximum extent possible and significantly reduces wet weather flows from a 36-acre watershed tributary to Pier Avenue in order to reduce bacteria loading in the storm drain outfalls at the beach. The infiltration/storm drain element of this project introduces a new way of thinking of the typical or conventional storm drain system as well as establishing water quality requirements utilizing infiltration systems and/or treatment of storm water runoff from private property to leverage the effectiveness of this project. The system is unique because the storm drain component plays an auxiliary role in the management of run-off and is only activated as the infiltration systems reach capacity.

In addition to and concurrent with the Low Impact Development features of this project, the City simultaneously proceeded with text amendments and zoning changes establishing redevelopment standards for private commercial property along Upper Pier Avenue. The intents of the Specific Plan were to create a pedestrian-oriented seaside village center of small-scale commercial establishments that attract and serve local residents, in addition to visitors.

The streetscape project improves pedestrian comfort, accessibility and aesthetics, wider sidewalks, shade, and street furniture. Other notables include:

- The installation of bulb outs and a center median that enhanced pedestrian safety by reducing the pedestrian's roadway crossing distance by almost 50 percent. Pedestrian safety was also enhanced by the installation of crosswalks with solar powered in pavement flashers and the introduction of a diagonal crosswalk at Hermosa and Pier Avenues;
- Two landscaped parkettes constructed at the intersection of Manhattan and Pier Avenues that serve as "Transit Kiosks" and as casual gathering areas. These parkettes are furnished with european styled bus shelters, bike racks, seating areas, and canopy trees with up-lighting;
- Other low impact development features included recycling of the existing asphalt roadway to be re-used as sub-base, installation of a new reclaim water main and the re-use of runoff for irrigation, the installation of high-efficient induction street lighting, creation of permeable landscaped areas, and the use of drought tolerant landscaping that are also suited for coastal applications;
- Median trees were located in a manner not to disrupt the majestic views that occur in several areas along the avenue. Palm trees were used west of Monterey Street to maintain ocean views while canopy trees were used in locations further up Pier Avenue to provide shade for pedestrians.

Perhaps the most noticeable yet intangible benefit created through the Pier Avenue Project was the coalescing of community. It began before; strengthened during; and now flourishing post-construction. It was evidenced through the consensus-building work of the Upper Pier Avenue Committee (UPAC), the creation of First Thursdays and Hermosa Beach's first snowfest, and now through increased evening strolls, the opening of new business, remodels and a surge of new construction. As mentioned to Mr. Craig Hooks, EPA's Assistant Administrator, on a recent visit to Hermosa Beach, "it's interesting to see how the investment into Pier Avenue's complete makeover of its downtown commercial corridor has created the ancillary infrastructure to spur private economic investment and future success".

For further information, contact Frank Senteno at fsenteno@hermosabch.org 310-318-0238

Pier Avenue – Before

Pier Avenue – After

City Showcase

SPOTLIGHT ON ACHIEVEMENTS - RANCHO PALOS VERDES!

You don't have to be a news hound to know that this hasn't been a banner year for municipal government. Headlines regarding budget shortfalls, ethics violations and other serious issues embarrassed all public servants. Rather than cities being in the news for all the wrong reasons, the City of Rancho Palos Verdes made a bid to reverse that trend through its May 3rd "Spotlight on Achievements" event. The accomplishments shone as brightly as the City's famous Point Vicente lighthouse.

The effort began last year during the preparation of the annual budget. City Council challenged staff to develop an employee incentive program for the coming year that tied compensation levels to positive, pro-active financial and customer service improvements. Applying a private-sector, incentive-based model, staff was tasked with offsetting potential personnel pay increases by identifying cost savings and locating new sources of revenue--all while improving service and efficiency. Keep in mind that Rancho Palos Verdes is already a lean organization with the lowest revenue per capita in the South Bay and the fewest full-time employees for its population.

Sound impossible? Despite the odds, staff met the challenge head on. 57 full-time and 30 part-time staff generated an impressive 138 suggestions! After a thorough examination, a multi-departmental committee chose the best and brightest ideas. The bar was set high at $150,000 for fiscal year 10-11, but staff did a quadruple flip over that barrier, totaling $600,000 and earning a standing ovation from the Council.

Employees in the spotlight: Rancho Palos Verdes staff come together to meet a challenge head on.

Staff highlighted their accomplishments with exhibits and public presentations. Of the selected submittals, 17 involved cost savings/new revenues and 29 provided enhanced customer service and organizational efficiencies. Two major grant awards to be received next year were highlighted totaling over $1.2 million in roadway safety and public trail improvements. Also showcased was the City's new Leadership Academy aimed at engaging more residents in civic affairs.

Overall, the challenge excited and motivated the employees to think creatively about every task that they perform on a daily basis. The results were truly impressive and such a success that the program will continue next year. The employees could not have accomplished so much without support from the City Council, community leaders, dedicated volunteers and concerned residents who all help make Rancho Palos Verdes a city to be proud of.

For more information on RPV's Employee Performance Incentive Program, please contact Eric Mausser at 310-544-5331.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CITY OF EL SEGUNDO!

On May 17, 2011, El Segundo Mayor, City Council and Fire Chief Kevin Smith were presented with a plaque from the US Green Building Council designating Fire Station #2 with LEED Gold Certification. According to Fire Chief Smith, "systems and materials were incorporated into the project to achieve gold status". Fire Station #2 is the first LEED Gold fire station in the South Bay.

"LIVING ON EARTH" PUBLIC RADIO INTERNATIONAL INTERVIEWS LUV

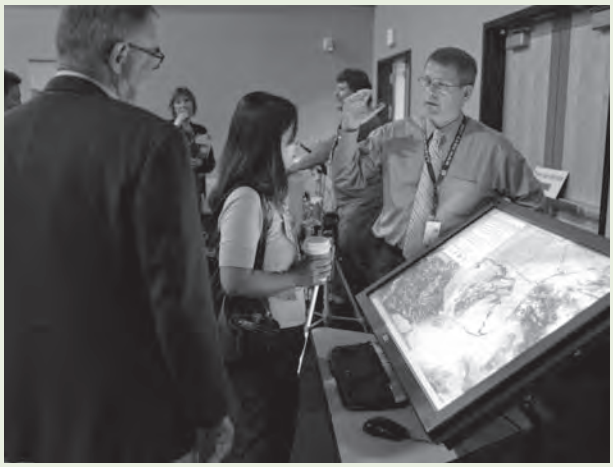
SBCCOG Executive Director Jacki Bacharach, along with Wally Siembab, Special Projects Manager, and David Magarian, Environmental Programs Specialist; were interviewed by Ingrid Lobet, Western Bureau Chief of "Living on Earth" for Public Radio International on the LUV project. The interview is airing around the United States.

You can listen to it on our web site @ wwwsouthbaycities.org/node/795

Members of county staff visit South Bay to see LUV.

KEEPING OUR HEADS ABOVE WATER

Adapting to Climate Change in Southern California - Top scientists, including 2007 Nobel Peace Prize recipients, shared insights on how climate change is projected to affect Southern California during this Climate Adaptation Symposium and Workshop which was co-hosted by Northrop Grumman Corporation (NYSE:NOC), the City of Hermosa Beach, the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) and others on May 2, 2011 at the Northrop Grumman Presentation Center in the City of Redondo Beach. Attendees enjoyed the exhibits as well.



Fritz VanWijngaarden, Northrop Grumman, Omaha, NB office shows an interactive Touch Table display of hurricane Katrina impacting New Orleans.

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All projects included in this program will be monitored to assure that they stay on schedule and within budget and the entire list will be reviewed annually.

This work could not have been accomplished without the consensus of our cities and the county working with Metro and Caltrans. SBCCOG also has used the services of a team of technical consultants put together by Iteris who helped us to complete the complex analysis and priority setting process.

For further information, contact jacki@southbaycities.org

Food for Thought

CA GUBERNATORIAL ADMINISTRATIONS

Pat Brown (1959-1967)
Population increases: Rose from 14.7 million to 18.8 million, nearly 28 percent.
Unadjusted spending: Rose from $1.9 billion to nearly $4.7 billion, or 141 percent.
After inflation is factored: Per capita expenditures rose from nearly $1,309 to $2,000.
Change in real spending: 53 percent increase in real spending.
Social and economic factors: Pat Brown presided over the golden age of expansion in California, a period that saw the beginning of the State Water Project, the building of freeways, growth of the public school system and the Master Plan for Higher Education. At the same time, the aerospace industry was booming, much of it located in California.

Ronald Reagan (1967-1975)
Population increases: Rose from 18.8 million to 21.2 million, slightly more than 12 percent.
Unadjusted spending: Rose from nearly $4.7 billion to nearly $10.3 billion, or 121 percent.
After inflation is factored: Per capita expenditures rose from $2,000 to nearly $2,253.
Change in real spending: 12.6 percent increase in real spending.
Social and economic factors: Social and economic factors: Ronald Reagan was forced to rein in spending, in large part because of two recessions and lower defense spending by the federal government as Vietnam wound down. At the time, Reagan signed California's largest tax increase to balance the state budget.

Jerry Brown (1975-1983)
Population increases: Rose from 21.2 million to 24.8 million, or 17 percent. **Unadjusted spending:** Rose from nearly $10.3 billion to slightly more than $25.3 billion, or nearly 147 percent. **After inflation is factored:** Per capita expenditures rose from $2,253 to nearly $2,530. **Change in real spending:** 12.3 percent increase in real spending. **Social and economic factors:** Social and economic factors: Like his predecessor, Jerry Brown also dealt with recessions and high inflation. But he and the Legislature dramatically altered funding to local governments and schools in 1978 after a taxpayer revolt capped property taxes. Lawmakers sent more than $26 billion dollars to schools and local governments through the end of Brown's term.

George Deukmejian (1983-1991)
Population increases: Rose from 24.8 million to 29.8 million, or 20 percent.
Unadjusted spending: Rose from $25.3 billion to nearly $51.4 billion, or 103 percent.
After inflation is factored: Per capita expenditures rose from $2,530 to $3,149.
Change in real spending: 24.5 percent increase in real spending.
Social and economic factors: Social and economic factors: George Deukmejian benefited from a national economic turnaround and signed state budgets that boosted spending over his eight-year term.

Pete Wilson (1991-1999)
Population increases: Rose from 29.8 million to 32.9 million, or 10 percent.
Unadjusted spending: Rose from $51.4 billion to nearly $75.3 billion, or 46 percent.
After inflation is factored: Per capita expenditures rose from $3,149 to $3,478.
Change in real spending: 10.4 percent increase in real spending.
Social and economic factors: Social and ecnomic factors: Pete Wilson dealt with the loss of aerospace jobs in the early 1990s and left office at the beginning of the technology and venture-capital boom, when increased tax revenue allowed him to oversee larger state budgets.

Gray Davis (1999-2003)
Population increases: Rose from 32.9 million to 35.9 million, or 13 percent.
Unadjusted spending: Rose from nearly $75.3 billion to $104.2 billion, or 74 percent.
After inflation is factored: Per capita expenditures rose from $3,478 to $3,716.
Change in real spending: 6.9 percent increase in real spending.
Social and economic factors: Social and economic factors: Gray Davis benefited at the beginning of his term from the dot.com bubble, only to see state revenue drop sharply during its bust. His five years in office came to an abrupt end when voters recalled him in 2003 for his handling of the budget and problems caused by energy deregulation.

Arnold Schwarzenegger (2003-2011)
Population increases: Population has increased from 35.9 million to almost 38.9 million, nearly 10 percent. **Unadjusted spending:** Has risen from $104.2 billion to nearly $124.7 billion, or nearly 26 percent. **After inflation is factored:** Per capita expenditures have decreased from $3,716 to $3,239. **Change in real spending:** Nearly 13 percent reduction in real spending.
Social and economic factors: Social and economic factors: Arnold Schwarzenegger is dealing with a severe national recession and housing-market crash, which has led to a state unemployment rate that reached 12.6 percent in March, a modern-day record. The early years of his tenure benefited from a soaring economy, but state spending has dropped significantly as the recession pummeled California's economy

CALENDAR

All meetings are open to the public

July

11 Steering Committee
* GIS Working Group
20 Livable Communities Working Group
21 Green Cities Task Force
27 Infrastructure Working Group
28 Board of Directors

* The GIS Working Group does not meet during the month of July

August

8 Steering Committee
Legislative Committee
10 GIS Working Group
17 Livable Communities Working Group
24 Infrastructure Working Group
25 Board of Directors

September

12 Steering Committee
Legislative Committee
14 GIS Working Group
21 Livable Communities Working Group
22 Board of Directors
28 Infrastructure Working Group

Contact jacki@southbaycities.org for further information.

The South Bay Watch is no longer being mailed. Please send your email address to newsletter@sbccog.org to receive the SBCCOG quarterly newsletter or see it at www.southbaycities.org