

# Bay Watch

**Summer 2008**

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

Published by the South Bay Cities Council of Governments

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Outgoing SBCCOG Chair Paul Nowatka received thanks from member cities for his leadership of the SBCCOG this past year. The Board elected new officers who will start in their positions on July 1. From left to right, incoming 2nd Vice Chair and Rolling Hills Estates Mayor Pro-Tem Judy Mitchell, incoming Chair and Redondo Beach Council Member Steve Diels and incoming 1st Vice Chair and El Segundo Mayor Kelly McDowell join outgoing Chair and Torrance Council Member Paul Nowatka after the election of new officers.



SBCCOG also honored outgoing MTA Board Chair and Santa Monica Council Member Pam O'Connor for her leadership of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Board this past year. She was commended for her diligence and attentiveness to the issues of importance to the South Bay.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### 10TH ANNUAL SBCCOG GENERAL ASSEMBLY

WHEN: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2009

TIME: 8:30 AM TO 3:00 PM

WHERE: THE CARSON COMMUNITY CENTER

Hear speakers on the topic:

*Funding City Services in the Future—  
Financial Pillar or House of Cards*

The economy and where it's going, including the impact on city budgets, is a growing issue. Having a discussion of financing city services and how state mandates and 'revenue stealing' affects our budgeting and service delivery is a subject for all cities. The program will focus on this most critical time in city service funding and what to do as the trends continue.

For the past 10 years the South Bay Cities Council of Governments has brought together elected officials, city staff, city commissioners, community and business leaders, and the public at the Annual General Assembly, where issues of importance to the South Bay are brought to the forefront.

**Plan to Join us for the 10th Annual General Assembly on Friday, February 27, 2009!**

### THANK YOU TO CHEVRON PRODUCTS COMPANY—

#### A BENEFACTOR FOR THE 2009 EVENT

Become a Benefactor, Patron or Golden Circle Member & receive publicity in the next four quarterly newsletters.

Contact Kim Fuentes ([kim@southbaycities.org](mailto:kim@southbaycities.org)) to sign-up in any one of the following categories:

Golden Circle: \$10,000 Patrons: \$7,500 Benefactors: \$5,000 Sponsor: \$2,500

*The Name Has Changed – But...All Else Remains the Same*  
SOUTH BAY ENERGY SAVINGS CENTER is now:  
**SOUTH BAY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CENTER**

## A REVIEW OF THE 2007-08 SBCCOG ACCOMPLISHMENTS & A GLIMPSE AT 2008-2009

2007-2008 has been a very busy year for the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG). SBCCOG addressed many diverse issues including transportation, smart growth, conservation of energy and water emergency preparedness, advocacy, and coordination of communications with federal, state, county and regional agencies.

### General Assembly

The successful 9th Annual General Assembly – “Bracing for the Boom: Are Cities Ready for their Aging Population?” provided a real wake-up call for our members as well as abundant food for thought as cities prepare for the future.

### Transportation Studies

SBCCOG was also very involved in coordinating studies on goods movement, congestion, and looking at what smart growth is in the South Bay. Funded through the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), SBCCOG has been looking at how to coordinate the performance of the I-405 freeway with the streets that access it, how to accommodate goods movement on

South Bay streets, and what kind of mixed use development works best in our area.

### Neighborhood Vehicle Friendly Initiative

The SBCCOG Board of Directors took the innovative step of adopting a Neighborhood Vehicle Friendly South Bay Initiative. Studies conducted by the SBCCOG show that becoming “friendly” to alternative transportation modes such as scooters, Segways, cycles, Neighborhood Electric Vehicles, and other medium speed innovations is a good fit for the South Bay



*This 2008 ZENN 2-passenger Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (NEV) is an illustration of what could be the vehicle of the future for the congested streets of the South Bay.*

since we have diverse destinations which would be difficult to serve by transit. Additionally, we don't have a lot of transit. The initiative will seek to introduce vehicles, such as neighborhood electrics which remain unfamiliar to most consumers and untried by the majority of the public.

**continued on page 5**

## METRO'S VANPOOL PROGRAM MAKES AN IMPACT IN SOUTH BAY CITIES

The South Bay Cities Council of Governments has joined forces with Metro to galvanize and strengthen commuter services for employees, residents, developers, and municipalities to many South Bay businesses. The Metro Vanpool Program aims to cut traffic, reduce CO2 emissions, relieve parking demand, and ease the sting of high gas prices by buying down the cost of vanpool leasing to help get commuter vanpools on the road.

“The South Bay is already a leader in vanpooling. Nearly 40% of all Metro's Los Angeles County vanpools travel to work sites located here,” says SBCCOG Chair & Redondo Beach Councilman Steve Diels. “Because vanpooling is one of the most cost-effective ways to address the problem of traffic and reduce our toxic emissions, the South Bay COG is pleased to partner with Metro to bring the program's message to our city governments and to pass on the benefits of the program to their constituents.”

The Metro Vanpool Program offers ongoing subsidies of up to \$400 monthly per van to offset lease costs and make it easier to get vanpools up and running. Vanpooling (similar to carpooling, with 5-15 people regularly sharing a ride together) is ideal for

commuters traveling 15 or more miles to work. Vanpoolers that participate in Metro's program can save 20% to 30% off the normal cost of vanpooling – and up to 70% off their usual commute costs if they switch from driving alone. In a recent survey of Metro Vanpool participants, nearly half of respondents said they save \$200 or more every month.

Currently, 627 vanpools are taking advantage of the Metro lease subsidy – 225 from the South Bay alone.

### Getting Involved

Cities can participate in the program in two ways: as an employer by offering the subsidy to employees that want to vanpool and by making it part of community planning and business outreach programs.

“We've found that people are interested in vanpooling right now because of high gas prices, but the subsidy is the one thing that makes them actually take the step,” says Paul Nowatka, former member of the City Council for the city of Torrance.

**continued on page 4**

# City Showcase

## WATERBROOMS SAVE WATER, MONEY AND TIME IN HAWTHORNE

Conservation of water and energy has become increasingly important for South Bay cities that have joined together in several ways to reduce the use of precious natural resources. The South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) secured rebate funding for a new water saving technology several months ago, through the South Bay Environmental Services Center, for use by restaurants, sports complexes, fire stations, auto mechanic garages, parking lots, tennis courts, playgrounds, construction job sites, and the general public to use in their homes – any place that currently uses a high pressure water hose to clean hardscape.

The Watermiser™ Waterbroom combines water and air pressure to remove dust, dirt, food spills, foliage, litter, sawdust, bird droppings from concrete and asphalt surfaces, as well as any other hard surface, such as tile, linoleum, clay, and brick. By using as little as two gallons per minute versus a hose and nozzle that may use six to eight gallons per minute, the Waterbroom conserves the use of water when cleaning a sidewalk outside a business.

During the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the SBCCOG was able to provide all South Bay cities with five to six Waterbrooms each, free of charge through two rebates, so that the cities could see their value in reducing water usage and staff time. The Waterbrooms are valued at \$250 each with funding provided through rebates from the Metropolitan Water District and the Water Replenishment District. Then, the City of Hawthorne was the first South Bay city to promote them for their businesses. In the spring of this year, Mayor Pro-tem Ginny Lambert, who introduced the Watermiser™ Waterbroom to her fellow City Council members last fall, delivered the first three Waterbrooms to businesses on Hawthorne Boulevard where the new technology was demonstrated.

"This particular concept to conserve water is so innovative, and I am proud that the city of Hawthorne is the first municipality in the South Bay to make a commitment to this technology. It's very exciting," stated Mayor Pro-Tem Lambert. "All the cities of the South Bay should be acquiring the Waterbrooms for their businesses. They are free and so it is no burden on any city budget."

"There is rebate funding for up to 600 brooms for the cities of the South Bay, which makes them free of charge," said Rob Katherman. "The Water Replenishment District has partnered with the West Basin Municipal Water District to make these acquisitions possible. It is the responsibility of everyone to contribute to conserving water, and we want to make it possible

for the South Bay cities to participate in this program."

The use of the Waterbroom in place of the high pressure hose and nozzle to clean up sidewalks, a health code requirement for all food establishments, reduces the time for workers to complete the task by as much as 75%. In addition, the business' liability is reduced because the fine mist sprayed from the narrow broom dries quickly, so passersby will not risk slipping and falling. Runoff water does not have a chance to gather into pools or run off into the storm drains, minimizing pollution, due to the quick-drying mist.

The Watermiser™ Waterbroom is available for use with either hot or cold water. Businesses can be eligible for the free Waterbroom if it will be replacing an existing pressure hose or high water usage spray nozzle. The city of Hawthorne is distributing the Waterbroom in this first phase to approximately 100 food establishments located on Hawthorne Boulevard.

"We estimate that 50,000 gallons of water can be saved in a year if a business uses the Waterbroom to replace its daily hosing. This means that from the 100 Hawthorne establishments that received a Waterbroom, up to 5 million gallons of water can be saved over the coming year," said Marilyn Lyon, the SBESC Program Manager. "This is a best management practice for owners of businesses who want to contribute to saving energy and conserving water.

"We are so grateful to the grants from Water Replenishment District and the West Basin Municipal Water District to bring this conservation technology to the South Bay cities. And we are proud to have Hawthorne as the leader in this program," concluded Lyon.

Donald Dear, President of the West Basin Municipal Water District, was impressed by the efficient way in which the Waterbroom did its job on the sidewalks during the demonstration. "This is one of the best investments made by the Water District to assist our cities in this most important conservation effort," stated Dear.

The Watermiser™ Waterbroom is but one way to contribute to saving the environment and reducing your costs. For further information on water or energy saving devices and tips for your home or business or to learn about 2008 water saving rebates and incentives, contact the SBESC at 310-543-3022 or visit the website at [www.sbesc.com](http://www.sbesc.com).



*From left to right: Don Dear, Rob Katherman, Jag Pathirana (background), Marilyn Lyon, Ginny Lambert, watch Rick Carver demonstrate the Watermiser™ Waterbroom.*

## Vanpool continued from page 2



*A single vanpool prevents on average 30 tons of CO2 emissions per year.*

Higher gas prices are causing people to reconsider vanpooling, but it

Torrance signed on for the subsidy for its 11 vanpools, which also reduces energy consumption. When cities promote energy savings ideas in their communities, the fact that vanpools greatly reduce vehicle miles “is a natural part of that message,” added Nowatka. “Cities are definitely getting more eco-conscious.

is the subsidy that actually makes them take the step.”

Metro hopes to double the number of vanpools in the South Bay in the next year and is eager to work with cities to attain its goals. They provide all program materials, as well as assistance with forming vanpools and identifying potential riders. Current South Bay participating employers include: The Aerospace Corporation; The Boeing Company; ConocoPhillips; DIRECTV; HERBALIFE; Mattel, Inc.; Northrop Grumman Corporation; Raytheon Company; and Teledyne Technologies, Inc., among others.

For more information about the Metro Vanpool Program, go to [www.metro.net/vanpool](http://www.metro.net/vanpool) or contact Metro's Vanpool Support Agent, Derek Fretheim at Acire Inc. at (949) 275-6365. 

## SBCCOG CITIES SET EMISSION REDUCTION GOALS

There are a number of actions taking place in the state of California with respect to climate change and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) that will impact cities and make it advantageous for cities to position themselves well to respond to those issues. Cities are facing the prospect of state requirements to complete baseline emissions' inventories and Climate Action Plans as a result of the passage of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill (AB) 32).

With this legislation, the state of California established a ‘first-in-the-world’ comprehensive program of regulatory and market mechanisms to achieve real, quantifiable, cost-effective reductions of greenhouse gas emissions. The bill made the Air Resources Board (ARB) responsible for monitoring and reducing GHG emissions and continued the existing multi-disciplinary Climate Action Team to coordinate statewide efforts.

Two requirements of AB32 were to adopt mandatory reporting rules for significant sources of greenhouse gases by January 1, 2008, and to adopt a plan by January 1, 2009 indicating how emission reductions will be achieved from significant GHG sources via **regulations**, market mechanisms and other actions. The ARB presented its first set of possible strategies for achieving the mandated reductions in May, 2008.

The ARB staff partnered with the California Climate Action Registry (CCAR), The Climate Registry (TCR), and Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) to develop local government protocols for GHG assessment. By working with ICLEI directly at an early point in the process, the cities can position themselves well to respond to any proposed regulations. Having inventories either completed or in process will help the SBCCOG cities advocate for and implement regional goals for GHG reductions in the South Bay.

According to *Western City Magazine* (2/8/2008), developments in public policy make it likely that a city will want to “adopt local climate change policies by either amending (1) its general plan; or (2) its CEQA Guidelines, or both.” This is due to several court decisions and a legal settlement that increased the requirement for the environmental review process to include an analysis of a project’s GHG emissions and the potential impacts on climate change. Cities could face legal challenges to their review processes at any time. By beginning the process of inventorying GHG

emissions, cities will be in a better position to respond to challenges, and to impact legislation in these areas.

Since the passage of AB32, many communities have formed active, involved citizen groups that advocate that their cities begin the process of creating Climate Action Plans. A number of South Bay cities have signed the “Cool Cities” pledge, and are setting up teams to begin the process of assessing their GHG emissions.

The city of Manhattan Beach completed an emissions inventory in-house. The task was assigned to someone who set aside regular duties for many months, while other staff members devoted significant time as well. However, most cities do not have the in-house staff time necessary to be effective at a task of this magnitude, despite its importance and inherent legal complications.

The South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) now has a Climate Action Plan Coordinator to assist cities in completing baseline inventories of their own GHG emissions and prepare the cities for the process of completing a Climate Action Plan. The Climate Action Plan Coordinator is assisting cities in gathering data from Southern California Edison, The Gas Company, waste haulers and other contractors and familiarizing the cities' staffs with the ICLEI software, which was developed for specifically compiling this diverse data. With ICLEI software, reports can be generated for 1990, 2005, and 2007 city energy use, as well as using data and ICLEI reports to determine an emissions reduction goal for each city.

By identifying a Climate Action Plan point person for each city, meeting with other city staff as applicable, the SBCCOG can assist cities in gathering and analyzing data from all sources; troubleshooting problems; and creating reports that are consistent and informative for each city.

By joining together in this way, SBCCOG cities will be ready to respond in a cost-effective manner to further regulations or requirements that may become part of the implementation of AB32. Completing this required Climate Action Plan process will demonstrate to each community that their city is responsive to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG).

For more information, log on to the following websites:

<http://www.climateregistry.org/> <http://www.theclimateregistry.org/>  
<http://www.iclei.org/> <http://www.arb.ca.gov/> 

## Sure Things continued from page 6

come from somewhere else, outside of the South Bay.

Because we are not likely to suffer intensive damage, our police, firefighters and medical personnel will be called upon to provide assistance to victims in hard hit areas. As a community, we will be asked to help provide shelter and assistance to tens or even hundreds of thousands of victims.

Communications throughout the state, county, and local regions are paramount in any natural disaster. The Ham Radio operators in the United States are responsible for providing reliable emergency communication wherever it is required by local, state, or federal government officials. The South Bay is no exception with the HAM Radio Clubs that exist.

### *Every Cloud Has a Silver Lining*

Even the most irrepressible optimist would likely take an extra deep breath in the face of this gloomy scenario. But there really is a bright side.

We can do something about it before it happens. Armed with the

scientific data in the 312-page report issued in late May by the USGS, the same utilities mentioned above can re-engineer their pipeline crossings along the Fault.

People in southern California can prepare their homes and businesses to minimize the losses caused by the shaking damage. And, the November exercise, Golden Guardian 2008, will give every government agency an opportunity to review and practice their disaster plans and make those critical adjustments that always pay big dividends when the world starts to go sideways.

The complete "Shake Out" scenario 312-page report is available at: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2008/1150/of2007-1150.pdf>

A shorter, non-technical version of the scenario is available at: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1324/c1324.pdf>

For further information, check out these additional websites: [www.ShakeOut.org](http://www.ShakeOut.org) and [www.DareToPrepare.org](http://www.DareToPrepare.org)

Article prepared by Mike Martinet, Area G Emergency Management Coordinator 

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## 2007-08 Accomplishments continued from page 2

### *Funding*

Also, this year the SBCCOG was able to transfer \$1.6 million in federal funds to the cities of Hawthorne and Manhattan Beach for use to complete projects. Hawthorne was able to complete a project to improve Crenshaw Boulevard traffic flow and Manhattan Beach was able to finish the design of a widening project at Rosecrans Avenue and Sepulveda Boulevard.

### *Legislation*

Monitoring legislation on the state and federal levels was also a very important part of the work program. There are so many actions proposed in Congress or in the State legislature, which affect South Bay cities, that the SBCCOG regularly reviews legislation and then communicates with our legislators on issues of concern.

### *South Bay Environmental Services Center*

SBCCOG is very proud of the growing services and programs which are available through the South Bay Environmental Services Center (SBESC) which we operate in partnership with Southern California Edison, The Gas Company, West Basin Municipal Water District, the Torrance Water Department and the Los Angeles County Sanitation District. The Center provides energy efficiency and water conservation resources to cities, businesses, and residents.

### *2008-2009 Activities*

As 2008-2009 gets underway, the SBCCOG will continue in its mission to promote cooperation between municipalities of the South Bay region, seeking solutions to issues of common concern

and promoting the visibility and awareness of the South Bay as an outstanding place to live, work and play.

Through the SBESC, conservation programs and joint procurement opportunities for public agencies will be expanded. The SBCCOG will also work with industries and businesses to promote comprehensive energy/water conservation programs and practices and find ways to provide free and low-cost equipment, such as the Watermiser™ Waterbrooms, to assist cities to conserve. With our water partners, the SBCCOG will initiate an Ocean-Friendly Gardening Program, Food Facility Program, and work to obtain commercial and industrial incentives to promote water conservation.

The South Bay Green Task Force will hold regular meetings to share best practices and strategies for cities to consider for being 'green'. SBCCOG will also be working with cities to complete their baseline carbon footprints and assess elements that will be part of a South Bay Climate Action Plan.

The transportation studies will be completed on the performance of some of the South Bay streets that access the I-405 freeway as well as the intersections that handle the most goods movement. Commenting on regional plans and proposed programs and policies, as well as monitoring legislation, will also be part of the work program.

The South Bay Cities Council of Governments will continue to gather data on salaries and jobs, support and enhance partnerships between the cities and school districts of the South Bay, offer training programs for city staff as well as provide opportunities for city staff networking and information sharing.

**2008-2009 – another jam-packed year!!** 

# Food *for* Thought

## SURE THINGS: DEATH AND TAXES FOR CALIFORNIA ALSO ADD EARTHQUAKES

According to the County Assessor's records, in 1857, the total assessed valuation of all the property in Los Angeles County was \$750,000. The population was 9,000 souls.

Things are a little different today. \$750,000 will buy one or two homes, or maybe make a solid down payment on something really nice. Today, in a single week, approximately 10,000 persons move into California.

Depending on how you do the math, one of every 10 or 15 persons in the United States lives in California. Roughly two out of every three Californians live in the southern part of the state.

This matters, why? Because in California, we also have monstrous earthquake faults. Actually, having the earthquake faults isn't so bad. But when they eventually move our comfortable lives can come crashing down, both literally and figuratively.

The good thing about earthquake faults is that they don't move too often. But for southern California, there hasn't been a MAJOR earthquake fault move since 1857, when the Fort Tejon earthquake struck. Sure, there has been Sylmar in 1971 and Northridge in 1994. But they weren't BIG earthquakes.

### Looking At the Future

Dr. Lucille Jones of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) in Pasadena has spent more than a year working with her fellow seismologists, engineers, utility experts, and a large group of other subject-matter experts to develop a special perspective on what southern California will experience when the inevitable earthquake does occur.

The earthquake scenario, Golden Guardian 2008, will be a 7.8 magnitude earthquake along the southern San Andreas fault, from Bombay Beach (near the Salton Sea) to Lake Hughes (near Lancaster and Palmdale).

In this exercise, every part of the State will participate. While all of southern California will be scrambling to put Humpty Dumpty back together, the State, county and local governments, from Santa Barbara northward, will be trying to get all manner of emergency assistance into southern California.

The 7.8 magnitude earthquake exercise will run for four days, November 13, 14, 17 and 18th, 2008. The first two days are scheduled to be the Emergency Response activities and the last two days will focus on Recovery Efforts.

### Why Is An Earthquake In Palm Springs & Palmdale Our Problem?

#### Because...

Because, even though Los Angeles is over 100 miles west of Palm Springs, the shock waves will travel through Los Angeles, and as far as Ventura County. And, downtown Los Angeles sits on top of a gigantic geologic bowl that is four miles deep. When the shaking hits the relatively soft soil that fills this container of geologic "jello," Los Angeles and the surrounding areas will shake intensely. The shaking will last for nearly one minute. By comparison, shaking in the 1994 Northridge earthquake lasted for only seven seconds.

#### Because...

Because, every utility lifeline into southern California crosses the San Andreas fault.

For reasons known only to engineers, the four aqueducts that transport water to southern California, the Los Angeles Aqueduct, the California Aqueduct, the Colorado River Aqueduct, and the Coachella Canal all cross the San Andreas Fault. Not just once, not four times, but 32 times.

Fiber optic lines, our links to telephones and the Internet, cross the San Andreas Fault 90 times. Oil and gas pipelines, natural gas lines, highways, railroads, and electric power lines all cross zigzag back and forth over the Fault.

### What Does This Mean For the South Bay?

The results of any massive earthquake as described previously will have a direct impact on the South Bay because the damage from any great earthquake along the San Andreas Fault will lay a swath of destruction from Santa Monica to San Bernardino through Downtown Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley. Any parts of our lives that connect to the rest of the country and the world across the path of destruction will be adversely affected.

South Bay residents have families, friends and jobs in those areas. Our food, water, medical supplies and most of the things in our stores

**continued on page 5**

## CALENDAR

All meetings are open to the public

### July

- 14 Steering Committee
- 15 Legislative Committee
- 16 GIS Working Group
- 16 Livable Communities
- 23 Infrastructure Working Group
- 24 Transportation Committee
- 24 Board of Directors\*
- 31 Green Task Force

### August

- 11 Steering Committee
- 13 GIS Working Group
- 19 Legislative Committee
- 20 Livable Communities
- 27 Infrastructure Working Group
- 28 Transportation Committee
- 28 Board of Directors\*

### September

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

*\*Beginning in July, these meetings held at Redondo Beach Historic Library*

Contact [jacki@southbaycities.org](mailto:jacki@southbaycities.org) for further information.