

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

January 13, 2020

TO: SBCCOG Steering Committee

FROM: Jacki Bacharach, Executive Director

RE: Trip to Sacramento

Adherence to Strategic Plan:

Goal B: *Regional Advocacy*. Advocate for the interests of the South Bay.

BACKGROUND

At the last Steering Committee meeting, it was agreed that the SBCCOG would plan a trip to Sacramento to meet with legislators and agency staff specifically on housing legislation with possible other high priority issues to be included.

SBCCOG staff contacted Tony Rice who was the consultant with Rice/Englander Associates. He worked with the SBCCOG previously to change the composition of the AQMD Board several years ago and he performed well. Mr. Rice was asked about best possible dates to visit and he explained that the bill introduction deadline for new bills is February 21, 2020. He suggested that we wait until at least early March so we have a better handle on the bills to be considered for the remainder of the legislative session. He explained that no bill can be acted upon within 30 days of its initial introduction, so early March is an ideal time to come without worrying about missing an important hearing or action on a high priority bill that might have been just introduced.

Also, he suggested that the best dates are Tuesday and/or Wednesday because those are the only 2 days during the week that legislators are generally in town the full days. They typically fly into Sacramento on Monday morning for a half day of work in the afternoon and most are at the airports heading back home around 11am on Thursday. An alternative for a two-day trip would be to schedule legislators on Wednesday and agency people on Thursday. However, there would be the chance that a targeted member isn't available to meet on the one day we would be there so it would be less flexible.

Lastly, if we want to do just one day in Sacramento, he would schedule meetings between 10-4 of half hour increments for each meeting, and at least 15 minutes between meetings depending on distance from one office to another. He suggested if we want to go to more than 6-7 offices, a two-day trip would be worth the extra time and expense.

The price for his services would be a fee of \$1000. While setting up lobby days is fairly straight forward, there is a significant amount of time taken to work with each office as they require a lot of follow-up to get a solid answer...and then be flexible when they call to try and invariably

move things around. This would also include working with SBCCOG on messaging and talking points for each office.

SCHEDULING

The week of March 2 is election week so it is not business as usual in Sacramento.

The week of March 16 is our General Assembly week. That leaves the week of March 9 or March 23. National League of Cities is March 8 through 11. Would that be a consideration?

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend the Board contract with Tony Rice of Rice/Englander Associates for a \$1000 fee to provide logistical assistance for the Sacramento trip to meet with legislators and government agency staff to be scheduled for the following dates in priority order:

- Tuesday, March 24 to Wednesday, March 25 – 1st choice
- Tuesday, March 10 to Wednesday, March 11 – 2nd choice
- Wednesday, March 11 to Thursday, March 12 – 3rd choice