

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Briefing & Breakfast with Legislative District Staff Meeting Notes

Thursday, January 12, 2017

City of Lawndale Councilman and SBCCOG Chair Jim Osborne chaired the meeting and called it to order at 8:15 am. Los Angeles County Supervisor (D-4) and SBCCOG Board Member Janice Hahn proceeded with the flag salute. The following individuals introduced themselves:

Elected Officials and Board Members

Cedric Hicks, Carson
Olivia Valentine, Hawthorne
Hany Fangary, Hermosa Beach
Jim Osborne, Lawndale
Olivia Valentine, Hawthorne
David Lesser, Manhattan Beach
Jim Goodhart, Palos Verdes Estates
James Vandever, Palos Verdes Estates
Christian Horvath, Redondo Beach
Velveth Schmitz, Rolling Hills Estates
Britt Huff, Rolling Hills Estates
Heidi Ann Ashcraft, Torrance
Milton Herring, Torrance
Kurt Weideman, Torrance

Legislators

Janice Hahn, LA County Supervisor (D-4)

Representatives of Legislators

Cameron Onumah, US Senator Dianne Feinstein
Sabiha Khan, US Senator Dianne Feinstein
Joey Apodaca, Congressman Ted Lieu
Nicolas Rodriguez, Congressman Ted Lieu
Sydney Kamlager-Dove, State Senator
Holly Mitchell

Christopher Wilson, Assemblymember Mike Gipson
Andrew DeBlock, Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi
Mark Waronek, LA County Supervisor
Janice Hahn
Nick Ippolito, LA County Supervisor
Janice Hahn

City Staff

Jacqueline Wu, Palos Verdes Estates
Anton Dahlerbruch, Palos Verdes Estates
Alexa Davis, Rolling Hills Estates
Eleanor Jones, Torrance

Other Agencies

Patricia Donaldson, Chamber of Commerce
Matthew Garth, Northrop Grumman
Chris Cagle, SBWIB
Jeff Kiernan, League of CA Cities
Javiera Cartagena, SCAG
Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG
Natalie Champion, SBCCOG
Rosemary Lackow, SBCCOG
Steve Lantz, SBCCOG
David Leger, SBCCOG

SBCCOG Program Update

SBCCOG Executive Director Jacki Bacharach provided a program update focusing on five SBCCOG initiatives. She described the South Bay Broadband Feasibility Study to be completed in March, which will present ideas for a fiber optic Master Plan network for the South Bay and serve as an economic development strategy to keep cities technologically updated in the new digital economy. Ms. Bacharach requested businesses in the South Bay to take the survey through the

SBCCOG or South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) websites in order to be included in the regional broadband study. The SBWIB is funding the study and both the SBCCOG and SBWIB are receiving notoriety since this is the first regional effort to conduct a broadband feasibility study.

Regarding homeless services, Ms. Bacharach mentioned that former Supervisor Don Knabe and current Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas funded the current South Bay initiative. We are now working with Supervisor Hahn and Ridley-Thomas' offices to receive an extension beyond February 2017. The dedicated services include a hotline, case management and a coordinated effort with service providers. The Homeless Services Meeting held yesterday detailed how people are being linked to services, with an initial goal of 58 people in permanent housing. Currently, there are 70 people placed in permanent housing. Moreover, 250 coordinated entry interviews were completed to get people into the system to receive services. Ms. Bacharach referred to a chart highlighting the activity of services provided in each city.

Ms. Bacharach discussed the Special Task Force Meeting that will deal with the Measure M transportation sales tax measure to commence on January 26 that will focus on the next steps for the South Bay. The SBCCOG is preparing for implementation of the measure including monitoring Metro's guidelines and developing a strategic plan for sub-regional programs to allocate and use the funds.

The Short Term Rental Task Force will meet on March 1 and will include speakers throughout the region who will discuss best practices. The Regional Coyote Management Group met and the state agency representatives in attendance shared that the SBCCOG is the first to have such a meeting on this emerging regional issue. Additionally, Ms. Bacharach described the South Bay Travel Pal funded by Metro and designed for trip and event planning; she shared that Travel Pal is working with StubHub and The Forum and welcomed those in attendance to sign up to Travel Pal for group rides and rideshares to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Ms. Bacharach reviewed the Green Building Challenge funded by Southern California Edison and the Gas Company, which recently received an extension to continue to help business with building sustainable green practices and savings.

Ms. Bacharach elaborated on the SBCCOG and City of Carson working together on a Micro Grid that would retrofit Carson's municipal buildings with solar installations. The SBCCOG is part of a team which has received a grant through the California Energy Commission to conduct the study and is currently seeking an application to work on the micro grid implementation in Carson. Additionally, the cities of Inglewood and Hermosa Beach are studying using anaerobic digesters to turn food waste into energy for electric vehicle charging stations. This is also funded by the California Energy Commission. Furthermore, the SBCCOG is working with HERO to promote renewable energy projects, including the Solar Energy Project. Lastly, Ms. Bacharach invited those in attendance to the General Assembly on February 24 and shared the speaker lineup and welcomed legislative offices to have exhibits at the event.

The SBCCOG Program update PowerPoint presentation is on the SBCCOG website at:
http://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/legislative_staff/PRESENTATION_1.12.17%20Legislative%20Briefing%20Update.pdf

City Issues Identified for Discussion & Dialogue

SBCCOG Board Member and Palos Verdes Estates Councilman Jim Goodhart mentioned that at the City of Palos Verdes Estates City Council meeting, there was discussion on the limitations of funding through LA County for addressing the coyote situation. Mr. Goodhart stated that the South Bay is an area where additional funding is needed to support the regional approach to mitigating the coyote problem. He also shared the need for behavioral changes among residents in communities impacted by coyotes, including bringing pets in at night, covering compost and not leaving food out. SBCCOG Board Member and Hermosa Beach Councilman Hany Fangary discussed a case decided in Ventura County dealing with the issue of short-term rental applications.

Los Angeles County Issues

Los Angeles County District 4 Supervisor Janice Hahn discussed the regional impact of the issues that Ms. Bacharach discussed during her presentation and applauded the SBCCOG on its success, accomplishments and regional approach in forging solutions. Supervisor Hahn emphasized the importance of local government in having the greatest impact and influence for a better quality of life. She mentioned that Measure M will provide \$120 billion to the region to build a transportation system, and that in her role as a member of the Metro Board of Directors, she will fight to get the South Bay's share of Measure M projects. Supervisor Hahn agreed with the SBCCOG regarding the projects that were taken out of Measure R and how these should be prioritized in Measure M. Supervisor Hahn has met with Mayor Eric Garcetti and Metro Director Phil Washington in order to fast track these projects and will need the SBCCOG's help to move said projects forward. She emphasized that the South Bay's projects make the 21st Century transportation system connect to the rest of the county. Supervisor Hahn also stated she would be calling on Congressmen Ted Lieu and Allen Lowenthal on the Transportation Committee in Congress to advocate that the federal government front load additional funding for LA County to create more jobs and complete these transportation projects faster.

Supervisor Hahn applauded the SBCCOG for addressing homelessness as an issue, especially with 47,000 people sleeping on the streets and reviewed the circumstances that lead to homelessness, including especially aged-out foster kids, those with mental illness, and women and children fleeing domestic violence situations. She further detailed how homelessness is a priority for the Board of Supervisors. Additionally, Supervisor Hahn mentioned the quarter cent sales tax – Measure H - to be placed on the March ballot that would raise \$355 million annually for homeless services to aid nonprofits that provide services to the homeless. Supervisor Hahn noted that she looks forward to partnering with the SBCCOG to make sure its initiatives lineup to make a big impact in the coming year. Chair Osborne shared that the SBCCOG Steering Committee approved its support for Measure H. Ms. Bacharach mentioned that on March 22, the SBCCOG will be hosting a Landlord Workshop with Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas as the guest speaker and welcomed those in attendance to refer any landlords that may be interested in housing homeless individuals to learn about the process.

Federal Offices

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein's Office representative Cameron Onumah of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein's Office discussed the passage of the [Water Resources Development Act of 2016](#), which will provide aid for California's aging infrastructure, flood and drought protection, and eco-systems restoration. Mr. Onumah mentioned that the Senator decided to step down as the Vice Chair of the [U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence](#) and is now the ranking member in the [U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary](#) where she has a focus on immigration, community policing reform and human trafficking. The Senator also serves on the [U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations](#) and will be a partner in dealing with homelessness in LA County through her new role.

Field Representative Sabiha Khan of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein's Office focused her discussion on legislative priorities, specifically the Senator's introduction of five bills including: the [California Desert Protection and Recreation Act of 2017](#), which includes three national monument designations; the [West Coast Ocean Protection Act of 2017](#) that will permanently prohibit offshore drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf of California, Oregon and Washington; U.S. Senator Feinstein also introduced the [Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015](#), which extends the civil statute of limitations for minor victims of sex crimes to 28 years of age. Ms. Khan also shared that the [Windfall Elimination Provision](#) closes a loophole for cabinet officials to profit from public services by deferring tax payments. Ms. Khan also mentioned that U.S. Senator Feinstein was an original co-sponsor in creating an independent commission, modeled after the [9-11 Commission \(also known as the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States\)](#), [to investigate Russian interference in the 2016 election](#) – this bipartisan commission is equipped with subpoena power and access to classified and unclassified information to investigate hacking and develop recommendations to prevent similar interference in the future. Lastly, Ms. Khan shared that the Senator plans on introducing four bills: the [Personal Care Products Safety Act](#), the [Consumer Drone Safety Act](#), the [Requiring Reporting of Online Terrorist Activity Act](#), and the [Homeless Children and Youth Act](#).

Congressman Ted Lieu's Office representative Joey Apodaca introduced the new District Director Nicolas Rodriguez, formerly with Senator Boxer's Office. Mr. Apodaca explained that the Congressman was assigned to the [House Judiciary Committee](#), which allows him to focus more on immigration reform under the purview of the committee. Mr. Apodaca stated the Congressman is the only Democrat with a Computer Science degree and that cybersecurity issues are of paramount importance to the Congressman. The House Judiciary Committee has jurisdiction over immigration, civil liberties, criminal justice reform, privacy and encryption. Moreover, Mr. Apodaca shared that Congress passed the [21st Century Cures Act](#), which deals with superbug outbreaks. Mr. Apodaca emphasized that there are 2,800 bridges in California that need repair and that the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) estimates the infrastructure deficit to be \$3.6 trillion nationally. According to Mr. Apodaca, President Trump proposes \$1 trillion for such repairs and shared that Congressman Lieu is introducing an amendment, as a member of the [House Budget Committee](#), to increase the amount of funding allocated based on the ASCE estimated cost. Regarding foreign relations, Mr. Apodaca shared the Congressman's concern over the war crimes in Yemen

perpetuated by the U.S. ally Saudi Arabia and that the Congressman is speaking out against such human atrocities. Moreover, the Congressman's concern over the Russian hacking threat led to the introduction of the [Countering Foreign Propaganda and Disinformation Act of 2016](#) , which was incorporated into the [National Defense Authorization Act](#) that authorizes the national defense spending plan. Mr. Apodaca also noted that California is the epicenter of veteran homelessness in the nation and that the Congressman is pushing for the housing of every veteran.

District Director Nicolas Rodriguez of Congressman Lieu's Office stated that the SBCCOG is a leading force representing communities taking action and is looking forward to working together to address the critical issues facing the region, specifically veteran housing and the [VA Master Plan for the West LA VA campus](#), which will include 1,200 units of permanent supportive housing and case management. Mr. Rodriguez also noted that the Congressman seeks to assist with the implementation of [Metroplex at LAX](#) and dealing with traffic noise.

State Offices

District Director Sydney Kamlager-Dove of State Senator Holly Mitchell's Office shared that the Senator represents a small portion of Inglewood and that she was recently appointed Chair of the [Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee](#) and emphasized that this is a critical time for social services. Ms. Kamlager-Dove detailed that the Senator will be hosting a series of hearings at the Capitol and across the state regarding The Budget. The Senator's legislative focus is on criminal justice reform, and health and human services and Ms. Kamlager-Dove discussed how the Senator lead the delegation to Utah to observe how the state responded to its housing and homelessness crisis to serve as a model for crafting California's [Housing First](#), an initiative for housing the homeless. The Senator was successful in repealing the passage of the [Maximum Family Grant \(MFG\)](#), which focused on poor women who are receiving CalWorks and prohibiting these women from receiving public assistance if they have more children. The Senator also passed a bill that eliminated discrepancies in sentencing between crack and powder cocaine ([SB 1010](#)). Additionally, Ms. Kamlager-Dove shared the Senator's legislative priorities including expanded reproductive health rights for women, particularly in rural areas and her support of [SB 1322](#), which protects children from being classified as prostitutes. The Senator remains committed to focusing on transportation and traffic congestion, particularly in dealing with the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) and the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Line, and is working with Metro on these issues. Ms. Kamlager-Dove shared that the Senator also prioritizes workforce development, especially career and technical training, and is looking forward to working with the SBCCOG on these critical issues.

Representatives Andrew DeBlock from Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi's Office welcomes inputs for the Assemblyman's legislative packet for the year and shared that the Assemblyman was selected to chair the [Joint Legislative Audit Committee](#).

Christopher Wilson representing Assemblymember Mike Gipson's Office shared that the Assemblyman was appointed Chair to [the State Assembly Democratic Caucus](#) by Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon and that he will be

examining the State's budget, especially the May Revise which the Governor projects will have a \$1.6 billion shortfall. Mr. Wilson mentioned the Assembly legislative blueprint that focuses on affordable housing, expanding the State's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), transportation and job creation. Mr. Wilson also stated that the Assemblyman is vetting more ideas for his legislative package in order to meet the February 11 deadline for introducing new bills.

Agency and Public Comment

Jeff Kiernan of the League of California Cities stated the League will focus on homelessness, affordable housing, public safety and infrastructure, particularly the \$7 billion annual deficit in transportation funding in California, which includes bridges, streets, roads and sidewalks. The League plans on holding a press conference in LA and at the capitol on the issue and welcomed the support of local and state elected officials. He detailed how the ongoing deficit is shocking and the need for action by legislators. Mr. Kiernan stated that each resident in the region spends approximately \$1,000 annually on car maintenance due to the failing streets and roads. He shared that the Gas Tax has not been raised since 1994. Additionally, Mr. Kiernan discussed that on January 27, the League will co-host a Legislative Meet and Greet and distributed a flyer inviting those in attendance; he also reminded attendees that the Governor would have his [State of the State](#) address on January 24.

Chris Cagle of the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) requested the organization's inclusion regarding homelessness discussions since they provide services around homelessness, particularly through its [Transitional Subsidized Employment \(TSE\) program](#), which placed 528 homeless into jobs and its low-income adult program through which LA County has directed an additional \$500,000 in funding. Mr. Cagle shared that the SBWIB now has an office at the Los Angeles Air Force Base, which is currently developing employer panels for veterans transitioning from the base. He welcomed large employers that are interested in hiring veterans to contact the SBWIB to be included in the employer panel.

Adjourn

There being no further business Jim Osborne adjourned the meeting at 9:12 am until Thursday, April 13, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,
Natalie Champion
South Bay Cities Council of Governments