

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Briefing & Breakfast with Legislative District Staff Meeting Notes

Thursday, October 13, 2016

8:00 am – 9:30 am

South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Torrance, California 90501

SBCCOG Board Member and City of Lawndale Councilman Jim Osborne chaired the meeting and called it to order at 8:12 am and proceeded with the flag salute. The following individuals introduced themselves:

Elected Officials and Board Members

Don Brann, El Segundo
Jim Goodhart, PVE
Kurt Weideman, Torrance
Britt Huff, Rolling Hills Estates
Jim Osborne, Lawndale
Olivia Valentine, Hawthorne
James Vandever, PVE
Anthony Misetich, RPV
Milton Herring, Torrance
Martha Barbee, Redondo Beach
Laura Emdee, Redondo Beach

Legislators

Maxine Waters, Congresswoman
Ben Allen, CA State Senator
Patrick O Donnell, Assemblymember
David Hadley, Assemblymember

Representatives of Legislators

Cameron Onumah, US Senator Diane Feinstein
Sabiha Khan, US Senator Diane Feinstein
Joey Apodaca, Congressman Ted Lieu
Samuel Liu, Ben Allen, State Senator
Tom Brewer, Assemblymember Hadley
David Hadley, Assemblymember
Sarah Patterson, Assemblymember O'Donnell
Robert Pullen-Miles, Assemblymember Burke
Hamilton Cloud, Congresswoman Waters

City Staff

Deborah Holland, Lawndale
Eleanor Barthe-Jones, Torrance
Amanda Sheldon, Lawndale
Kenneth Farfsing, Carson
Daniel Rodman, Mayor Eric Garcetti's Office

Other Agencies

Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG
Javiera Cartagena, SCAG
Natalie Champion, SBCCOG
Patricia Donaldson, Chamber of Commerce
Chris Cagle, SBWIB
Stan Myles AQMD
Sam Pedroza, LA County Sanitation District
Charles Gale, MWDSC
Angie Gibrade, CA Water Service
Jeff Kiernan, League of CA Cities
Josh La Farga, LiUNA Local 1309
Rosemary Lackow, SBCCOG
Steve Lantz, SBCCOG
David Leger, SBCCOG

SBCCOG Program Update

SBCCOG Executive Director Jacki Bacharach provided a program update and discussed the Broadband Initiative funded through the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) and shared how the SBCCOG will be conducting a feasibility study on broadband in the South Bay. She mentioned the need for high-speed internet access for businesses and residents in the South Bay. The SBCCOG is conducting focus groups and interviewing businesses to receive their feedback and Ms. Bacharach asked for attendees at the meeting to help in identifying businesses to participate.

Additionally, Ms. Bacharach remarked that the County and Supervisors Don Knabe and Mark Ridley-Thomas are funding homelessness services in the South Bay including a hotline and field resources. To date, there have been 453 unduplicated contacts and 1,000 duplicated contacts served by PATH (People Assisting The Homeless), the contractor. They are utilizing the coordinated entry county system allowing all agencies to access and identify the needs of the homeless. To date, 27 people have been placed in permanent housing.

The Green Building Challenge is a business competition for energy sustainability and serves as a model for southern CA. Southern California Edison, along with other funders including West Basin MWD, Golden State and the Energy Network renewed funding for the project through June 2017. Ms. Bacharach noted that there are 172 participants and more businesses are scheduled to participate. The SBCCOG hosted a Recognition Breakfast in September honoring Watson Land, Raytheon, SBWIB, Beach Cities Health District and Kaiser Permanente along with a few restaurants. Ms. Bacharach welcomed recommendations from attendees for additional businesses to participate in the program.

Regarding the South Bay Travel Pal, Ms. Bacharach discussed how the web-based trip-planning tool provides walking, transit, carpooling and other transportation options in addition to data on health benefits and greenhouse gas emissions used per trip depending on mode of transport. The SBCCOG is testing it for Metro and for work trips, event planning and has met with various businesses and community groups in the South Bay to navigate the use of the Travel Pal. The website is www.southbaytravelpal.com.

Ms. Bacharach mentioned the Short Term Rental Housing Task Force, which formed out of discussions at the September 2016 Steering Committee Meeting to identify cities' needs around this issue. The task force shares ideas and had its first meeting on September 26. City Managers, planning directors and Council members attended, with most cities stating that they plan to ban short-term rentals but are still looking into regulating such rental agreements. Ms. Bacharach stated that Host Compliance is a company that helps cities with enforcement and they will be invited to the next meeting of the Task Force and that the SBCCOG's website will be a repository for more information and coordination with the League of California Cities.

The presentation also covered the November Ballot propositions that the SBCCOG has taken positions on. Lastly, she reviewed information regarding upcoming events, including the Tour of the Automated Terminal at the Port of LA (TraPac) on October 25, CSUDH's Economic Conference on October 27 and the Holiday Light Exchange. She mentioned the tour of the CSU Dominguez Hills Archives and Special Collection on the South Bay on November 10 and the Volunteer reception on November 17. Lastly, Ms. Bacharach announced that the SBCCOG General Assembly will be February 24 and the theme is "Driving the South Bay's Digital Future."

The SBCCOG Program update PowerPoint presentation is on the SBCCOG website at:

http://southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/legislative_staff/PRESENTATION_SB_CCOG%20Legislative%20Briefing%20Update%20.pdf

Federal Offices

Congresswoman Maxine Waters explained that Congress is working on a resolution to fund the government through December. Regarding the 2017 congressional session, Congresswoman Waters indicated that the agenda has an emphasis on securing the Nation, specifically removing security threats, increasing funding for FBI counterterrorism efforts, improving security at airports and the borders. Another area on the agenda is rebuilding America's infrastructure, including job training, student loan debt and college affordability, pay equity and securing retirement, in addition to improving roads and water systems and bridges. The agenda also focuses on securing the Nation's democracy, including preventing "secret money" from buying elections, overturning Citizen's United and passing the DISCLOSE Act. Congresswoman Waters also shared the "By the People" Legislative Package, which seeks to revitalize voting laws, including the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015 and the Voter Empowerment Act of 2015.

State Offices

State Senator Ben Allen serves on the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee and acknowledged that the state's budget sets aside \$6 billion in resources for future economic downturns. He also noted that public education spending has increased by \$36 per pupil over 5 years. Regarding homelessness, Senator Allen mentioned that at the state level, Proposition 63 secures \$2 billion for Housing First Programs and that he wants to work with the South Bay cities to apply for said funding to expand the region's homeless services. He indicated that it costs the state more money to have a person on the streets than in supportive housing, due to the costs associated with social services. He cited that Utah's Housing First Programs serve as a model for California's approach to addressing homelessness. As the Chair of the Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee, Senator Allen is concerned about money and special interests' influence on elections, especially when there is limited transparency and accountability. To address this issue, Senator Allen championed Proposition 59 that seeks a constitutional amendment to overturn

Citizen's United. He also discussed his focus on legislation that addresses low voter turnout, specifically SB 450 that was signed by the Governor, which seeks to modernize the voting process by allowing people to vote 10 days before an election anywhere in the state; Senator Allen wants to meet with cities on how to implement SB 450. Moreover, Senator Allen chairs the Joint Committee on Arts and passed SB 916, which provides teaching credentials for theater and dance teachers. He also discussed that the committee is reviewing how to expand and maintain the Motion Picture and Television Production Tax Credit to keep the industry within California. Furthermore, Senator Allen noted that he is the Vice Chair on the Select Committee on Defense and Aerospace and emphasized the need for a stronger advocacy voice for the aerospace industry, which has more revenue for the state than the Entertainment and Agriculture industries combined.

Assemblymember David Hadley commented that he supported the DISCLOSE Act and that the Governor vetoed legislation that would have mandated telling voters if their absentee ballots were not counted. He wants to work with Senator Ben Allen on this to improve voter participation. He is concerned about carbon emission goals and supported SB 350 that requires 50 percent of electricity be renewable by 2030 within the state. He opposed SB 32 because there is no mechanism that will assist the state in reducing carbon emissions by 60 percent from 1990 levels. Additionally, he opposed SB 1387, which sought to change the composition of the South Coast AQMD. Assemblymember Hadley discussed how he supported AB 197 that provides legislative oversight on carbon emissions through the State Air Resources Board. Locally, Assemblymember Hadley discussed the LA Air Force Base and how he worked with Senator Ben Allen and Assemblymember Autumn Burke to improve the public school choices for children of active duty military service personnel. Regarding Measure M, Assemblymember Hadley opposes the proposition because it does not allocate enough funding for the South Bay; he supports the use of city sales taxes to improve the roads. He mentioned the Torrance Exxon Mobil Refinery and the challenges around hydrofluoric acid. Lastly, Assemblymember Hadley supported Senator De León "No Place Like Home" initiative and shared how his office will be leading a panel at 10:30 am in Torrance to discuss homelessness with community and faith-based leaders.

Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell discussed how he agrees with the Governor's approach to balancing the budget and the state's commitment to addressing homelessness in partnership with local government. He shared his focus on the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and how he wants to safeguard the ports from losing cargo to other nation's ports and the importance of more funding allocated to the ports. He indicated that Cap and Trade funding needs to go towards its intended purpose, which is to address pollution. He mentioned the California Sustainable Freight Action Plan that addresses emissions from trucks and other high pollutants and the need for Cap and Trade to act as a partner to local efforts to reduce carbon emissions; he cited the Clean Truck Program as an example of this in action. Assemblymember O'Donnell voted for SB 32, but did not vote for SB 1397 and AB 197. Additionally, he serves as the Chair of the Committee on Education with over 22 years teaching experience. He remarked on the importance of implementing Common Core and the new accountability system of the state, which measures school districts on

six areas, including attendance. He supports Common Core and wants to address the achievement gap and preparedness for college in addition to more funding for the arts, music and industrial arts, career technical and vocational education. He specified that more funding goes to higher needs schools due to the new local control funding formula which prioritizes schools that have more higher needs students.

Federal Offices Continued

US Senator Diane Feinstein's Office representative Sabiha Khan referenced how the US House and Senate passed the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016, a milestone in a 10-year effort to transform the West Los Angeles VA campus by adding 1,200 additional units of housing for homeless veterans, in addition to educational, healthcare and recreational services. The passage of this bill will allow similar projects to move forward more quickly and efficiently.

Congressman Ted Lieu's Office representative Joey Apodaca similarly shared the Congressman's efforts supporting the West Los Angeles Leasing Act and his commitment to addressing homelessness among veterans. Additionally, Mr. Apodaca recommended that if agencies in attendance identify homeless veterans to call the federal offices so they can refer them to available services. He shared that Congressman Lieu wrote a letter of support for the South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce in honor of the agency being the recipient of the 2016 Air Force Space Command Community Support Award. Moreover, Mr. Apodaca noted that the application process for the Military Academy Nomination will close soon and stated that many of the honorees come from the South Bay. Mr. Apodaca recapped the Congressman's first term and how the Congressman was able to get several bills passed into law, including the \$35 million West Los Angeles VA retrofitting project and the Security and Privacy in Your Car Act that attempts to prevent driverless vehicles from being hacked.

City Issues Identified for Discussion & Dialogue

SBCCOG Board and City of Torrance Mayor Pro Tem Kurt Weideman voiced his concerns about the Exxon Mobil Refinery and its use of hydrofluoric acid. He mentioned the challenge of banning the use of hydrofluoric acid and emphasized the need for legislative support on this issue. Senator Ben Allen discussed the challenge of passing a bill and acknowledged that there is alternative technology that is safer and better to transport than the current technology. He said safety protections should be the focus of legislation around hydrofluoric acid and the need to assess best practices from other states and countries. Congresswoman Maxine Waters commented that there is a need to rebuild the refinery and cited the concern with the number of jobs that the community relies on since the refinery is an economic engine for the region. Although she and Congressman Lieu have taken a strong position on this issue, Congresswoman Waters recognized that the citizens must be at the forefront to demand Exxon Mobil make the necessary changes. Additionally, she voiced the need for the community leadership to dictate to elected officials what they want to see happen with the plant.

City of Redondo Beach Councilmember Laura Emdee stated the Los Angeles Air Force Base is an economic driver in the South Bay and thanked Senator Ben Allen and Assemblymembers Autumn Burke and David Hadley for their support of AB 306. She has been working with Hawthorne Councilmember Olivia Valentine and El Segundo Mayor Suzanne Fuentes, among others, to improve the housing supply for the base. Moreover, she shared that the City of Redondo Beach is the only city with a gun range that satisfies the needs of the Air Force Base and the city will be working with the Base to bring the range up to their standard and specification.

Congresswoman Maxine Waters added that Wells Fargo CEO resigned and that the institution is guilty of creating fraudulent customer and client accounts. She indicated that there is a need for more oversight of the banks by government agencies to prevent fraudulent activity and ensure accountability.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Adjourn

There being no further business Jim Osborne adjourned the meeting at 9:26 am until Thursday, January 12, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,
Natalie Champion
South Bay Cities Council of Governments