

# **South Bay Cities Council of Governments**

## **Briefing & Breakfast with Legislative District Staff**

Thursday, July 12, 2018

8:15 am – 9:45 am

Networking & Breakfast starting at 7:45 am

### **MEETING NOTES**

SBCCOG Chair & Rolling Hills Estates Councilwoman Britt Huff called the meeting to order at 8:18 am and proceeded with the flag salute. The following individuals introduced themselves:

#### **Elected Officials and Board Members**

Bill Brand, Redondo Beach  
Britt Huff, Rolling Hills Estates  
Mark Waronek, Lomita  
Kenneth Kao, Palos Verdes Estates  
Ralph Franklin, Inglewood  
Olivia Valentine, Hawthorne  
State Senator Steven Bradford

#### **Representatives of Legislators**

Jeanette Cheng, U.S. Senator Feinstein  
Brent Robinson, U.S. Senator Harris  
Norchelle Brown, Congresswoman Barragan  
Olina Wibroe, State Senator Allen  
Daryl Sweeney, State Senator Bradford  
Hannah Cho, State Senator Mitchell  
Andrew DeBlock, Assemblymember  
Muratsuchi  
Sarah Patterson, Assemblymember  
O' Donnell

#### **City/County Staff**

Eleanor Jones, Torrance  
Lisa Berglund, Carson  
Alexa Davis, Rolling Hills Estates

#### **Other Agencies**

Patricia Donaldson, Hawthorne Chamber  
Tina Cox, AQMD  
Sam Pedroza, Sanitation Districts  
Erick B. Lee, South Bay Regional Public  
Communications Authority  
Jeff Kiernan, League of CA Cities  
Natalie Champion, SBCCOG  
Rosemary Lackow, SBCCOG  
David Leger, SBCCOG  
Steve Lantz, SBCCOG

#### **SBCCOG Program Update**

SBCCOG Transportation Director Steve Lantz highlighted the activities of the SBCCOG since the April meeting. He discussed the PATH program (People Assisting the Homeless) and how the SBCCOG received funding from LA County Supervisor's Hahn and Ridley-Thomas, \$200,000 each for the South Bay homeless program. All of the Council of Governments in LA County are being funded through Measure H to engage in homeless coordination for the next eight year life of the ballot measure. The goal is to also help cities implement their own homeless plans, in addition to the six cities that currently have homeless plans underway. The SBCCOG will also look at creating a regional homeless plan to formally coordinate with the cities. Mr. Lantz mentioned events that are being planned to train first responders and educational workshops for landlords,

and the performance measures outlined in the presentation. Mr. Lantz also discussed the Crenshaw Rail project and the operating plan and shared that Metro is constructing the project that will open in 2019 and how they are trying to decide how the trains are going to operate. He cited how the Green Line currently operates every six minutes in the peak period and travels from Norwalk to El Segundo. With the new Crenshaw line, other options are Norwalk to Exposition, Norwalk to El Segundo, and Exposition to Redondo Beach, which will impact the amount of trains and how frequently those trains go through the wye. There is concern in the South Bay that the region will not receive priority and the SBCCOG is currently in a discussion with Metro in order to hold public workshops in August to describe alternatives. There will be meetings at the SBCCOG to talk about whether to take a position on these options at the end of August. Mr. Lantz mentioned the Receive and File agenda item at Metro's Board meeting and how Supervisors' Hahn and Ridley-Thomas were able to provide three more months to educate and figure out the best alternatives for how this rail will operate for the next decade. Regarding the ExpressLanes operations, there is a concern that the funds are not distributed in the corridor where such funds are generated. Mr. Lantz identified that there will be another ExpressLane plan for the I-605 freeway near the I-105 freeway. Metro staff's intention is to use those funds generated by existing ExpressLanes to develop additional ExpressLanes throughout the county. The SBCCOG is encouraging Metro to spend ExpressLane funds within the applicable corridor as stated in state law. He mentioned that Metro and SCAG are working together to establish a planning process to determine what kind of investments will be appropriate in I-605 corridor. He noted that Measure M passed, which included three South Bay programs - one of which is an extension of the Measure R program, and two that focus on transportation and mobility. The SBCCOG will be putting together the selection criteria and the performance measures that will be used to select projects and creating a task force that will work with cities and Metro to determine the rules and conduct outreach for cities that have worked with Caltrans in order to assist with the completion of projects that receive approval from Metro.

Mr. Lantz mentioned the E-mobility and Bike Expo hosted by the SBCCOG which had participation from eight service providers and allowed participants to ride electric bikes and scooters. He discussed that cities are meeting as a bike share and electric scooter share task force to determine how such forms of transportation need to be regulated, and how cities can determine if they also want a partner with such entities to accommodate such small vehicles. Slow speed lane and slow speed networks are being merged with bicycle and scooter transit to create new transportation modes in the South Bay and the SBCCOG and city planners are focusing on this work.

Lastly, Steve Lantz mentioned the Broadband Feasibility Study and how the cities are interested in having more control over the infrastructure that connects cities to the internet. The SBCCOG released an RFP with 13 firms attending the mandatory bid conference. The deadline to submit proposals is September 4. Regarding regional coyote management, the SBCCOG is looking for additional funds and Mr. Lantz emphasized the General Assembly on Thursday, February 28th. He remarked that this is the 20th anniversary of the Assembly, which has a theme of *Celebrating the Past and Shaping the Future*.

The presentation is accessible via the following link:  
[http://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/legislative\\_staff/PRESENTATION\\_7.12.18%20Briefing%20for%20leg.%20staff.pdf](http://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/legislative_staff/PRESENTATION_7.12.18%20Briefing%20for%20leg.%20staff.pdf)

### **City Issues Identified for Discussion & Dialogue**

Chair Huff cited the city issues for further discussion including the following:

State Legislators - *From City of Inglewood Councilman Ralph Franklin:*

*Recently the United States Supreme Court ruled in favor of overturning the outdated standard set in the 1992 Quill decision that prevented states from collecting sales tax for online purchases. The Court decision in South Dakota vs. Wayfair signaled that the justices recognized the need to bring the law into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We need our State Legislators to visit the ruling and create bills that will have a level playing field between brick and mortar retailers and online only sellers. The Cities welcome being included in the revenue sharing. Can we count on you?*

### **State Offices**

**Olina Wibroe from Senator Benjamin Allen's office** discussed two bills: SB 933 which is an arts education for all bill which seeks to close the gap. Currently only 36% of safe schools have an arts education program. This bill seeks to create arts education program for all schools K-12 grade starting with schools that have the most need. This needs-based bill expands the definition of arts to performing and visual arts. SB 961 the transportation District bill which seeks to create transportation Districts where local governments can collect future sales tax in order to create more funding for building, maintaining or upgrading affordable housing (approximately 40%) and 60% of that funding is at will and can go towards other local government priorities. The senator did have some public safety and anti-violence bills that did not get passed, but he is supporting other anti-gun violence bills. Board Member and Hawthorne Councilwoman Olivia Valentine asked how SB 933 would be funded. Ms. Wibroe stated it is a grant program for school districts. Mayor Bill Brand of Redondo Beach commented on the transportation districts with Ms. Wibroe providing clarification that said transportation districts will center around existing transportation hubs that meet certain criteria including bus lines that have a certain frequency, how far the line goes and stops per minute. Board Member and Councilman Kenneth Kao of Palos Verdes Estates asked about the SB 933 application to all levels of K-12 and Ms. Wibroe answered affirmatively.

**State Senator Steven Bradford** mentioned that the SBCCOG is a vital source of information and offered help on the state level for our initiatives. He mentioned the balanced budget and the surplus that has not occurred on this level since the Great Recession. Senator Bradford also discussed A.B. 987 the new arena bill for the city of Inglewood, which is a \$2 billion project with no taxpayer money. He emphasized that it is not a CEQA exemption, but a truncated process and cited that there is opposition to the bill due to misinformation around eminent domain in taking homes although the city of Inglewood has owned this property for over 20 years. Senator Bradford shared how this project will bring a lot of investment to the city of Inglewood and surrounding areas, including FAA sound mitigation. He clarified that there was no way to build affordable

housing on the site because it was directly in the flight path, and that this land is better suited for the new arena. The senator also detailed that the project provides a regional benefit to the South Bay, including expansion of Century Boulevard using federal funds to improve a major arterial to the airport. Additionally, the Senator discussed SB 1283, a bill that deals with micro-breweries, which will allow 75 license holders to sell for off-site consumption and donate extra product/profits to nonprofits. Board member and Councilman Ralph Franklin of Inglewood mentioned that the SBCCOG Steering Committee where AB 987 was unanimously recommended for approval to the Board. A letter of support will go to the author upon SBCCOG Board adoption. Mayor Bill Brand of Redondo Beach asked if the Legislature has any interest around CEQA reform, with the Senator mentioning that this does come up in individual discussions, in addition to improving Proposition 13, but such issues are not treated as a priority. Mayor Mark Waronek of Lomita thanked the Senator for his work around AB 1283 and shared how the city is in the process of building its first brew pub.

**Hannah Cho, State Senator Holly Mitchell** mentioned that the Senator is the head of the budget committee. When Gov. Brown first came into office there was a \$27 billion deficit and now the current surplus will ensure that the state stays afloat. The Senator's CalWorks bill SB 982 is very personal to her due to her nonprofit background and work with children. She mentioned that District 30 is very diverse from Century City to South LA in Inglewood with over 1 million constituents. She mentioned SB 951, the film tax credit incentive which attempts to make sure that California stays an entertainment hub for Hollywood, and this bill helps with the sunset. She mentioned an equity justice package and a dense breasts tissue bill that addresses the nuanced health needs of women of color.

**Sarah Patterson, Patrick O'Donnell AB 1951** - Instead of taking the state-mandated assessment test would allow them to take the SATs and resources to take the test during the day at no cost. Additionally, the Assemblymember has a budget item that deals with the expansion of funding which will provide local shark research through California State University, Long Beach to review the migration patterns of white and other predatory sharks off the California coast and provide resources in the form of tagging, citing and signage to local county and state lifeguards in order to avoid shark attacks. Fire and paramedic readiness training will also be provided in case of a shark attack. Councilwoman Olivia Valentine asked about the advantage of taking the SAT over the state mandated assessment tests, with Ms. Patterson stating it reduces the cost to the student for paying for the test, avoids the student having to come in on a Saturday for testing, especially if they don't have access to a testing facility and/or parent/guardian support in transporting them to the test, in addition to the testing being provided during school hours and with school resources.

**Andrew DeBlock, Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi** addressed the Metro Green Line and the Assemblymember's contribution to getting \$231 million in state funding to ensure the project moves forward in a timely manner. Mr. DeBlock discussed AB 1775 that would ban offshore oil drilling in California. He stated that there is support for California to have a safe coastline and an environment that remains clean to support the multibillion-dollar

coastal economy and that the Assemblymember welcomes letters of support. He also cited AB 2808 that seeks to increase the local control funding formula for every school in the state, which is supported by every school district in the South Bay, including LAUSD. Board Member and Councilman Kenneth Kao of Palos Verdes Estates asked about how funds will be allocated with Mr. DeBlock stating that the funding structure will remain the same and the bill would ensure more money towards the funding formula. He mentioned that California's allocation to education is at the 2007-2008 funding levels which puts the state at the bottom 10 in the country and this bill would ensure that funding would be set at a higher level over the next seven years.

Board Member and Councilman Ralph Franklin of Inglewood shared that his aforementioned questions were distributed to the legislative offices and that Assemblymember Autumn Burke responded to his question in the new release article, "*Chairs of CA Assembly & Senate taxation committees react to recent SCOTUS decision on South Dakota v Wayfair, Inc.*" Mr. Franklin cited Assemblymember Burke's quote from the article as follows: "Whatever we do, it must reflect a thoughtful and deliberative process that takes into account the interests of all stakeholders, including local governments, California retailers, and the e-commerce sector, while simultaneously promoting a balanced marketplace for California's consumers and protecting small businesses," stated Assemblywoman Autumn Burke (D- Inglewood), Chairwoman of the Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation. "That is why, in the weeks and months ahead, Chairman McGuire and myself will be convening a series of stakeholder meetings to analyze the *Wayfair* decision, its implications and the best path forward." The article is accessible using the following link: <https://sb-american.com/2018/07/11/chairs-of-ca-assembly-senate-taxation-committees-react-to-recent-scotus-decision-on-south-dakota-v-wayfair-inc/>

Jeff Kiernan of the League of California Cities cited that the League has a statewide City Managers Working Group that reviews sales tax and how its allocated. Senate Constitutional Amendment 20 seeks to change the formula for online sales tax. The League is waiting on clarification on how the sales tax will be re-distributed.

## **Federal Offices**

Chair Huff read the city issues for further discussion including the following:

Federal Legislators - *From City of Inglewood Councilman Ralph Franklin:*

*In the State of California affordable housing crisis continues to soar. According to the 2017 Census count conducted by US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), homelessness has surged statewide with nearly 135,000 homeless people in the Golden State. California is home to 21 of the 30 most expensive rental markets in the country and continues to fall short of the housing stock needed to meet the demand of low-income households. With state's 2.2 million extremely low-income and very low-income renter households compete for 664,000 affordable rental units. We need your help in passing legislation for the State of California to receive more federal dollars to address the affordable housing short fall and get the families and veterans out of homelessness. We need your support and can we count on you?*

**Jeanette Cheng U.S. Senator Feinstein** discussed how the senator has been a leader around family separation and immigration and has authored the Keeping Families Together Bill. There are no Republican co-sponsors and her office is working with Homeland Security. The Senator does not want to see families separated at the border and is eager to review how the court orders are progressing. Ms. Cheng mentioned federal legislation for affordable, permanent and supportive housing. Her office has reviewed what is happening throughout California including San Francisco, Fresno, Los Angeles County and San Diego and that the senator will be introducing legislation within the next few weeks with the focus on permanent supportive housing models and flexible funding. Board member and Councilman Franklin stated that there is discussion to have sufficient affordable housing but one of the bigger challenges that cities face include individuals that qualify for the HUD vouchers becoming ineligible due to the value of the homes for rent which are available at market rate and therefore they do not meet the threshold for this subsidy to qualify. This is significant because it means that the standard needs to be raised so that the present renter without the voucher can qualify based upon the additional subsidy that can be received from the federal government because rents are still skyrocketing.

**Brent Robinson, U.S. Senator Kamala Harris** discussed the 2020 Census and how the count serves as the baseline for federal funding and the significance of formula-based funding from Census data. Mr. Robinson mentioned that in 2010, 2.1 percent of African Americans were undercounted, 1.1 percent of renters and 5% of children. He also shared that the questionnaire process just opened and to make sure cities are reaching out to the community. The Senator's office wants to partner with the SBCCOG to engage with the cities and communities. He also cited that the citizenship question is being imposed on the current census, which will impact the count. Additionally, 18.6 percent of the US population has limited proficiency in English, making it more important for constituent voices to be heard in order to make sure communities are not undercounted in the process and most importantly, to make sure cities receive their fair share in the funding structure and representation. Councilman Ralph Franklin mentioned that the citizenship question will impact the count and Mr. Robinson emphasized that the Senator spoke out in opposition to adding the question to the census. Hannah Cho of State Senator Holly Mitchell's office met with Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and will be hosting workshops on the Census to reach out to the Asian community, which has 24 different languages and will be partnering with Advancing Justice to train how to reach the community. Mr. Robinson shared that cross collaboration is helpful and the desire to have the numbers speak. Ms. Cho discussed Senator Mitchell's efforts around the homeless count and how some people are rendered invisible.

**Norchelle Brown, Congresswoman Nanette Barragan** shared that the Congresswoman is advocating for mental health services to the children separated from their families at the border and how the Congresswoman's bill H.R. 5045 increases funding for homelessness services.

**League of Cities Update**

**Jeff Kiernan of the League of California Cities** discussed housing and the November Ballot Measures including Proposition 2 No Place Like Home Act; Proposition 3; Proposition 6 and offered to present at City Council meetings. He also cited SB 3157 regarding small cell towers. He invited those in attendance to the installation ceremony at August 31.

**Discussion and Public Comment**

None

Respectfully Submitted,  
Natalie Champion, South Bay Cities Council of Governments