

# **South Bay Cities Council of Governments**

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

Thursday, April 14, 2016

8:00 am – 9:30 am

South Bay Cities Council of Governments Theatre  
Torrance, California 90501

SBCCOG Board Member and Torrance Councilman Kurt Weideman chaired the meeting and called it to order at 8:16 am and proceeded with the flag salute. The following individuals introduced themselves:

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

Kurt Weideman, Torrance  
Suzanne Fuentes, El Segundo  
Olivia Valentine, Hawthorne  
Jim Goodhart, PVE  
Mark Waronek, Lomita

### **Legislative Representatives**

Nicolas Rodriguez, US Senator Boxer  
Joey Apodaca, Congressman Lieu  
Lara Larramendi, Congresswoman Hahn  
Sonia Lopez, State Senator Mitchell  
Fernando Morales, State Senator Allen  
Christopher Wilson, Assemblymember  
Gipson  
Sarah Patterson, Assemblymember  
O'Donnell  
Tom Brewer, Assemblymember Hadley

### **City Staff**

Eleanor Jones-Barthe, Torrance

### **Other Agencies**

Danielle Valentino, Metro  
Jeff Kiernan, League of CA Cities  
Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG  
Chris Cagle, South Bay WIB  
Steve Lantz, SBCCOG  
Natalie Champion, SBCCOG  
Rosemary Lackow, SBCCOG  
Patricia Donaldson, SB Chamber of Com.

### **SBCCOG Program Update**

Jacki Bacharach provided a program update which is available on the website @ [http://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/legislative\\_staff/PRESENTATION\\_%20SBCCOG%20Legislative%20Briefing%204.14.16.pdf](http://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/legislative_staff/PRESENTATION_%20SBCCOG%20Legislative%20Briefing%204.14.16.pdf)

. It covered the following five SBCCOG initiatives:

- South Bay Travel Pal, a pilot program with Metro that provides a website dedicated to ride sharing and event and commuter travel in the South Bay.
- The Disruptive Technologies task force chaired by Councilperson Amy Howorth of Manhattan Beach that will poll cities to find out what the trends are that are causing cities to lose money including user's sales and hotel taxes and to ascertain the impact on the South Bay.

- South Bay Net initiative, a partnership with the South Bay Workforce investment Board (SBWIB) to study the feasibility of a broadband network for the South Bay.
- Homeless Services Program with PATH (People Assisting The Homeless) and funded by LA County Supervisors Knabe and Ridley-Thomas – presentation @ [http://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/legislative\\_staff/SBCCOG%20PA TH%20PowerPoint%20Presentation\\_4.14.16.pdf](http://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/legislative_staff/SBCCOG%20PA TH%20PowerPoint%20Presentation_4.14.16.pdf)
- Green Building Challenge, a program for businesses in the South Bay to assist them with incorporating sustainability into their practices, which includes 126 members to date. The goal is to attract 250 businesses and the SBCCOG will recognize those participating businesses September 28.

Furthermore, Ms. Bacharach also mentioned the Workshop on Metro's Proposed Sales Tax to be held on April 28 to discuss the SBCCOG position and overriding county-wide issues, including Measure R and the ExpressLane.

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

Councilman Weideman requested comments regarding city issues. Palos Verdes Estates Councilman Jim Goodhart discussed the installation of digital antenna systems by cellular companies that do not take into consideration the topography of where such systems are located, the impacts of the signals from the cellular towers and the effect of the police departments' ability to transmit information. The issue is that there are FCC, state and federal laws that govern where such systems are installed, which has impacts on cities. Ms. Bacharach stated that the SBCCOG is a subconsultant on a contract that will take place in Carson, as part of a California Energy Grant, to study solar on public buildings and yet it can't be sized correctly for electric vehicles. The funding is only for current use. Jeff Kiernan of the League of CA Cities mentioned drone, affordable housing and parking regulation legislation for cities to consider.

### **Federal Offices**

**US Senator Barbara Boxer's Office representative Nicolas Rodriguez** shared that Congress and Senate passed the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Bill, which will be a priority for cities in the South Bay, since it will increase federal surface transit assistance to Los Angeles County. Mr. Rodriguez discussed the Aliso Canyon gas leak situation and how the Senator is introducing legislation to create a federal task force that would focus on safety and natural gas storage by reviewing facilities similar to Aliso Canyon, since natural gas is a key component in meeting energy needs. The US Department of Energy and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will lead the task force. Additionally, Senator Boxer introduced legislation to mandate that cargo pilots have hourly restrictions regarding the amount of time they fly similar to passenger pilots, which will have an impact on LAX and Long Beach airports.

**Congressman Ted Lieu's Office representative Joey Apodaca** discussed the unveiling of the Draft Master Plan for the West LA VA Medical Center, which calls for 1,200 units of permanent supportive housing throughout the property. The Congressman introduced legislation to authorize the leasing authority to get the construction completed and passed through the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. Apodaca shared that the bills the Congressman introduced: the Fiscal Year 2016 Department of Veterans Affairs Seismic Safety and Construction Authorization Act that authorizes \$35 million to the West LA Veterans Affairs for seismic reconstruction and retrofitting. He emphasized the prioritization of veteran homelessness at the federal level, with a particular focus on Los Angeles since it has the largest population of homeless veterans. Additionally, Mr. Apodaca shared that the Congressman is on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and how the \$3 billion Cyber Security National Action Plan will assist in modernizing the government's information technology infrastructure. Congressman Lieu introduced the No Money Bail Act of 2016 that seeks to eliminate the idea of being kept in jail due to the inability to make bail and introduced a \$3 billion budget amendment to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund focusing on lead removal from drinking water to help lessen the financial burden to cities, counties, and states. Moreover, Mr. Apodaca discussed the H.R. 4871 and the Congressman's desire for expansion of the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Area, cosponsored by Congresswoman Waters, which will commission the national parks services to conduct a three-year study to expand the area southward and increase federal funding, maintenance and protections and maintenance over the land from Venice to San Pedro. Lastly, Mr Apodaca mentioned the passage of the amendment to the House Judiciary Committee, the Arts in Prison Provision to H.R. 759, the Recidivism Risk Reduction Act, which would increase arts education in prisons to improve behavior, reduce disciplinary actions and recidivism.

**Congresswoman Janice Hahn's Office representative Lara Larramendi** mentioned that the Congresswoman was at the unveiling on the Dodger's Stadium Vin Scully Avenue in an attempt to get Time Warner and other parties to reach an agreement in order to watch the Dodger's on Time Warner and other cable networks. Ms. Larramendi discussed how the Congresswoman testified to discuss emergencies and other concerns with the ports, including cyber security, hacking and scanning containers. The Congresswoman desires to have containers scanned when loaded and voiced some of the concerns of residents. Additionally, the Congresswoman expressed her appreciation to the leaders of the House Appropriations Committee for including her request for over \$1.2 billion in port funding in the draft FY 2017 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, a level above the appropriations target outlined [H.R. 3080 "The Water Resources Reform and Development Act" \(WRRDA\)](#). Ms. Larramendi discussed how \$1.26 billion in Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) revenue will go back to the nations ports for critical infrastructure projects. The Congresswoman voted for H.R. 4336 a bill that would expand inturnment rights for veterans at Arlington National Cemetery, including for WWII Merchant Mariners and the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) among others. She mentioned the Congresswoman's response to expand the security perimeter at airports after the Brussels Attacks. Lastly, Ms. Larramendi provided an update that \$14 million in federal funding would be dedicated to make repairs to the breakwaters in San Pedro and Long Beach Ports and should be completed within a year.

## **State Offices**

**Senator Holly Mitchell's Office representative Sonia Lopez** stated that the Senator currently has 16 bills on the floor focusing on health, labor, housing, public safety and health and human services. In regards to affordable housing, Ms. Lopez mentioned SB

1380 “Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council” pertains to combating homelessness. Additionally, Ms. Lopez mentioned that Senator Mitchell will be hosting “Coffee with Holly” on April 29, which allows the residents to voice their concerns about issues affecting the community, with some of the primary concerns being around affordable housing and street vendors.

**Senator Ben Allen’s Office representative Fernando Morales** discussed SB 1215 “California Aerospace Commission” CA Aerospace Commission, which would establish the California Aerospace Commission to foster the development of activities in California related to aerospace, including, but not limited to, aviation, commercial and governmental space travel, unmanned aerial vehicles, aerospace education and job training, infrastructure and research launches, manufacturing, academic research, applied research, economic diversification, business development, tourism, and education. Additionally, Mr. Morales mentioned SB 450 “Elections: Sample Ballots” which addresses low election turnout by authorizing a vote by mail model, specifically allowing those voters who are unable to return his or her vote by mail ballot to designate any person to return the ballot.

**Assemblymember Mike Gipson’s Office representative Christopher Wilson** reviewed AB 2055 “Income Taxation: Credits” which would reserve 25% of the aggregate amount of credits for taxpayers that make qualified sustainable freight investments, as defined, and would require the Franchise Tax Board to review the books and records of these taxpayers to ensure compliance with the taxpayer’s written agreement with GO-Biz. The Assemblymember has also met with the homeless population within his district to ascertain which issues are important to them and listen to their stories and build upon what the City of Los Angeles is doing around homelessness by allocating funds through a budget trailer bill. Mr. Wilson discussed the CalTrans Audit and the importance of redefining a “disadvantaged community” with the goal of bringing more cap and trade funding to the South Bay.

**Sarah Patterson of Assemblymember O’ Donnell’s Office** welcomed inputs by the SBCCOG around AB 1657 “Air Pollution: Public Ports and Intermodal Terminals” which would establish the Zero- and Near-Zero-Emission Intermodal Terminals Program to be administered by the state board to fund equipment upgrades and investments at intermodal terminals to help transition the state’s freight system, cargo handling and port building aligning efficiency and electrification.

**Assemblymember David Hadley’s representative Tom Brewer** discussed how the Assemblymember meets with cities to see what’s important to them and how his legislative package reflects cities’ top priorities. Specifically, Mr. Brewer mentioned the importance of SoCal ROC (Southern California Regional Occupational Center) and that there might not be any resolution. He mentioned the Gardena water issue and how the Assemblymember is working to resolve this issue, in addition to the reduction of funding to cities to combat the increase of crime and pending federal level changes in asset forfeiture laws that could reduce funding to cities. Mr. Brewer detailed AB 1745 “Public Safety: Funding” that would appropriate \$85 million from the General Fund to be allocated to local agencies for front-line law enforcement activities, including drug interdiction, anti-gang, community crime prevention, and juvenile justice programs. Lastly, Mr. Brewer mentioned the following bills: AB 2026 “California Environmental

Quality Act: Judicial Challenge: Identification of Contributors” to address the misuse of CEQA by prohibiting anonymous plaintiffs from suing under CEQA; AB 2468 “Public Employees’ Retirement System: Contracting Agencies: Benefit Formulas” which raises the retirement age to 65 as part of pension reform; and ACR 157:Louis Zamperini Memorial Highway. Jeff Kiernan of the League of CA Cities added that AB 1800 “Utility Outage Compensation Claims: Annual Posting”, amended by Assemblymember Hadley, would require each electrical corporation and local publicly owned electric utility to annually post on its website specified information relating to utility outage compensation claims for the previous year.

Mr. Weideman emphasized the importance of addressing the Exxon Mobil refinery issue at the federal level and wanted to know if there was an update on the FAA issue. US Senator Boxer and Congressman Lieu’s Office stated they would provide a status update to Ms. Bacharach as a follow-up to the meeting.

### **Public Comment**

Chris Cagle of the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) shared that the SBWIB is partnering with the LA Air Force Base to enhance transition services for the active-duty and retired “dislocated worker” airmen and their families and invited those in attendance to the signing ceremony event on May 10.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business, Kurt Weideman adjourned the meeting at 9:30 am until Thursday, July 14, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Natalie Champion  
South Bay Cities Council of Governments