

# South Bay Cities Council of Governments

## **Briefing with Legislative District Staff- Minutes**

SBESC Theatre

20285 S. Western Ave, Torrance, CA 90501

The meeting was called to order by Immediate-Past Chair, Ralph Franklin @ 8:17 a.m.

### **Flag Salute & Call to Order & Introductions**

The following people were in attendance:

#### Elected Officials and Board Members

Elito Santarina, Carson  
Suzanne Fuentes, El Segundo  
Ralph Franklin, Inglewood  
Bea Dieringer, Rolling Hills  
Pat Furey, Torrance

#### City Managers & Staff

Jackie Acosta, Carson  
Greg Carpenter, El Segundo  
Darryl Brown, Inglewood  
Michael Rock, Lomita  
Eleanor Jones, Torrance

#### Legislative Representatives

Maurice Lyles, Senator Boxer  
Eric Boyd, Congresswoman Hahn  
Kate Kennedy, Congressman Waxman  
Robert Pullen-Miles, Senator Lieu  
William Orton, Senator Wright  
Alexander Gurfinkel, Assemblyman Hall  
Miguel Cordova, Assemblyman Muratsuchi

#### Other agencies

Lisa Alarcon, Board of Equalization  
Rafael Zuniga, Board of Equalization  
Jeff Kiernan, League of CA Cities  
Charles Gale, Municipal Water District of SoCal  
Matthew Horton, SCAG  
Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG  
Marcy Hiratzka, SBCCOG  
Rosemary Lackow, SBCCOG  
Catherine Showalter, SBCCOG  
Steve Lantz, SBCCOG Transp. Consultant

### **SBCCOG Work Program Update**

SBCCOG Staff gave the following updates on the SBCCOG's recent activities:

- **Transportation** – 1) Steve Lantz, Transportation Consultant to the SBCCOG, reported that the preliminary Report was released by Metro indicating which project applications were accepted into Metro's 2013 Call for Projects. 2) 2 months ago, the SBCCOG hosted an information exchange called "Connecting the Planning Dots on the I-405." This event gave cities an opportunity to share infrastructure projects and improvements adjacent to the I-405 (from the Sepulveda Pass to Orange County.) The South Bay Highway Program is limited to operational improvements (auxiliary lanes and operational improvements; we cannot add new freeway lanes. As all regions' studies are discontinuous from each other, we have collectively requested that SCAG look at the corridor on the 405. Comprehensive improvements to this corridor will require federal funds or a new sales tax and the SBCCOG hopes that legislators will support this. The South Bay still needs to pay attention to other sub-regions' big projects such as the 2 new tunnels under the Sepulveda Pass. 3) Mr. Lantz also thanked the South Bay cities for supporting the SBCCOG's call to action to the Metro Board, regarding several obstacles that would have compromised the integrity of the South Bay Highway Program's funding. The South Bay was going to have to accelerate the highway program but it is impossible to deliver a billion dollars' worth of projects in the next 7 years. The SBCCOG asked to be able to opt out of acceleration and protect its funds. The Metro Board voted in favor of this request and allowed sub-regions to opt out of acceleration for highway projects. Councilman Franklin remarked that this was a collaborative effort and thanked those who attended the Metro Board meeting in June to testify on the South Bay's behalf. One of the other obstacles facing the SBCCOG was that Metro's South Bay boundaries are different than the SBCCOG's boundaries. Both organizations need to be on the same page and the SBCCOG may need help advocating, if this issue cannot be resolved administratively. After an inquiry as to whether legislation may be needed, Steve Lantz explained that the implied concept that legislation would be introduced might move things along and if needed, we would let them know. 4) Bill Orton said that toll lanes seem to be built into transportation planning concepts without public input. He asked if there is an effort by the SBCCOG

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that will address this issue. Jacki Bachrach said that toll lanes are a way to finance infrastructure. It would be good to begin a dialogue about this, as the SBCCOG is already involved with Metro's ExpressLane pilot project. Steve Lantz said that there is a study on the 405 from the 105 to the 605 (feasibility of HOT lane) and the toll lane at the Sepulveda Pass, but no talk of toll roads on the 405 in between the 2 areas. The proposed SCAG corridor study will incorporate the South Bay. Infrastructure is aging and needs to be fixed. 5) The Harbor Gateway Transit Center is still owned by Caltrans; it has not yet been relinquished to Metro, and neither party is moving improvements along there. 6) Steve Lantz concluded his update by stating that the Metro Board (Supervisor Antonovich) is requesting each COG's transportation priorities in order to prepare for a possible new sales tax measure for 2014 or 2016. 7) Ralph Franklin mentioned that SBCCOG advocacy was instrumental in removing the maintenance fee for 6 months for transponders to use the I-110 and I-10. The fee discouraged use by occasional users of the freeway. The SBCCOG will be monitoring further discussion of the fee at Metro.

- **Environmental Services Center** – 1) Catherine Showalter talked about the South Bay Energy Leader Partnership that is funded by Edison, awarding cities with rebates for municipal and community savings in energy. Lomita is currently the first South Bay City to reach the platinum level for their municipal energy efficiency. This gives them more rebate dollars on future projects. Gold designated cities are Hawthorne, El Segundo, Rancho Palos Verdes, and Manhattan Beach. 2) The SBESC has a contracted engineer who provides energy auditing services to the cities. 3) Ms. Showalter also introduced two new programs that will allow commercial and residential property owners to finance the installation of eligible energy efficiency, renewable generation and water conservation improvements with low-interest loans that are repaid as an item on the property owner's property tax bill – also known as Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs. The first program is called Home Energy Renovation Opportunity (HERO). It is operated by the Western Riverside COG (WRCOG) and the SBCCOG Board has approved partnering with the WRCOG to assist in the implementation of the California HERO Program in the South Bay. The program is the largest PACE program in the country. In order for its property owners to be eligible to participate in the California HERO program, each City only needs to adopt a Resolution of Participation. Entering into this agreement would not preclude a City from participating in other financing or other PACE programs. WRCOG administers the program, and the only city staff time required is to process the City's required permits. Eligible projects must be new, permanently fixed products that are installed by a contractor that is registered to participate. The Figtree program's MOU on the July Board agenda. Figtree is the second PACE program that offers energy retrofits for commercial properties at no cost or liability to municipalities. Figtree is known for having issued the first multi-jurisdictional bond to finance retrofits in various cities.
- **General Update** – Jacki Bacharach distributed multiple flyers about upcoming events/programs:
  - MS4 Permit Update Presentation- July 25 at 6pm at SBCCOG Office in Torrance
  - The Challenge of Short Trips in the Vehicle Marketplace (Local Use Vehicle Demonstration Project Results)- July 29 from 4-6pm at SBCCOG Office in Torrance
  - Joint Water Pollution Control Plant- August 3 from 9-10:30am in Carson (hosted by the Sanitation Districts of LA County)
  - Green Construction Policy Training- August 21 from 9:30-11:30am in Redondo Beach (hosted by Metro and CARB)
  - List of community events and workshops that the SBESC will be attending
  - Energy and Water Conservation Tip Sheet

Legislative Staff gave updates on Legislators' priorities and what issues are being heard in each district.

### **Federal Office Updates**

- **Senator Boxer**- Maurice Lyles introduced himself and said he was present to listen.
- **Congresswoman Hahn**- Eric Boyd said that transportation infrastructure, Veteran casework, and small businesses are hot topics for Congresswoman Hahn. She recently participated in a MAP21 conference call and authorization is scheduled for next year. The Harbor Maintenance tax fund is dormant. It was mostly used by smaller ports and not a benefit to the bigger ports. Some freight provisions were adopted in the final version of a bill that is going to the White House for signature. A National Freight Policy is being established with goals to improve the "condition and performance of

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the national freight network.” A National Freight Network consisting of critical freight routes and other routes on the interstate system and in rural areas is to be designated by the Transportation Secretary. USDOT is to prepare a National Freight Strategic Plan in consultation with States and public and private stakeholders. The plan is to identify freight gateways and corridors (and their bottlenecks), future freight volumes, and needed improvements. The Senate’s Immigration Reform bill passed and is on its way to the House. Congresswoman Hahn supports the bill except for the fact that she feels the pathway of citizenship is too long. Hearing opposition against immigration reform was a surprise. Mr. Boyd suggested the South Bay cities poll their constituents to get an indication of whether or not City Councils are representing the sentiments of their residents. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Female Veterans Stand Down is happening in Long Beach on July 19. Mr. Boyd asked if the SBCCOG has addressed storm water treatment recently and Jacki Bacharach reiterated that the City of Torrance staff will be giving the SBCCOG Board a presentation on MS4 Permit updates on July 25.

- **Congressman Waxman-** Kate Kennedy announced that on July 15, the Congressman is going to hold a field hearing in Santa Monica called “Gun Violence, Mental Health, and Community Recovery: Responses to the June 7, 2013, Santa Monica Shootings.” Climate change, health care, and immigration reform are other key issues being focused upon.

### State Office Updates

**Senator Wright-** Bill Orton spoke about the budget, enterprise zones, school funding and complications from realignment. Due to passage by voters of Prop 30, the state adopted an on-time, balanced budget. As part of the budget, the Governor was successful at creating a new, supplemental funding formula that will aim dollars to school districts with large numbers of poor kids and English learners. Lawmakers pressed for compromise, and succeeded at having the formula include extra dollars to go to all districts, as well as the priorities set forward by the Governor. Mr. Orton also mentioned that with passage of AB 93, the Legislature did away with the geographic definition of enterprise zones. Gov. Brown’s reforms move the state’s tax credits and away from specific zones over to sectors, such as manufacturing and biotechnology, and to classes of works, like veterans. On prisons, Mr. Orton said that due to a federal court order that the state further reduce the inmate population, efforts to mitigate realignment are going nowhere and impacts are being felt in jails and on streets. The Governor is hesitant to move on adding new felonies or giving cities needed funds until the federal court case that some call a “constitutional crisis” is resolved. Mr. Orton also fielded a question on pensions, from Councilwoman Dieringer, of Rolling Hills.

- **Senator Lieu-** Robert Pullen-Miles announced that Senator Lieu now chairs the 10-member Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee and also the Joint Committee of the Arts. Mr. Pullen-Miles also distributed a bill summary of legislation introduced by the Senator, which focus on issues such as school and public safety, economic growth, health care, and sustainability. He further stated that much of the office casework is to assist the unemployed with EDD.
- **Assemblyman Hall-** Alexander Gurfinkel distributed a list of upcoming community Q3-Q42013 events throughout Compton, Wilmington, Carson, and Dominguez Hills sponsored by Assemblyman Hall. Economic development and health care are issues on-deck for discussion. There is also a program called “Bringing the Assembly to Your Doorstep,” which allows the Assemblyman to interact with constituents in a public place and discuss community and legislative issues. He also mentioned that the Department of Corrections has funding to educate local businesses to prepare for prisoner release. The Assemblyman also chairs the Human Rights Committee.
- **Assemblyman Muratsuchi-** Miguel Cordova announced an informational hearing that the Assemblyman has scheduled for August 9 at the Redondo Beach Main Library from 10:30am-12:30pm. This hearing is called “Rebuilding a Competitive Aerospace Industry” and will discuss the highlights and challenges of advanced manufacturing in the aerospace industry, including the state’s efforts to ensure that the industry continues to create high-tech, high-wage jobs, generating economic activity and improving regional growth. To register, please call 310-316-2164.
- **Board of Equalization-** Rafael Zuniga distributed an *Initiative and Events* sheet from Jerome Horton. One of the initiatives on this list was the Municipal Revenue Enhancement Program Initiative, a state and local government information partnership that maximizes economic recovery for both. There will be a “Torrance Small Business Seminar” at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center - Ken Miller Recreation Center on October 7, 2013 from 9am-2:30pm. This seminar (open to the public) will focus on increasing revenue without increasing taxes. Registration may be completed at <http://www.boe.ca.gov/sutax/sbf.htm>. Mr. Zuniga also distributed a fact sheet on Assembly Bill 576

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(Perez), Revenue Recovery and Collaborative Enforcement Team Act. He also wanted to follow-up on our previous discussion re: sales tax distribution from Amazon sales – it is distributed where the goods are picked up so if the patron picks it up at a local locker, that sales tax should go to that jurisdiction.

### **City/Agency Issues Identified for Discussions and Dialogue**

- Rolling Hills Councilwoman Dieringer reported that the Rolling Hills City Council asked her to inquire about problems with CalPERS. Bill Orton said that no solution has been found yet.
- Representing the Municipal Water District of Southern California, Charles Gale announced a Community Leaders' Briefing on Water Supply Issues on July 16 from 11:30am-1:00pm in Lakewood. Assemblymembers Rendon and Lowenthal are being recognized for their leadership in water issues as well. The reservation deadline is July 12; please call 213-217-7347 to register!
- El Segundo Councilwoman Fuentes mentioned grant opportunities for cities that are impacted by sequestration. She said that some of these grant applications require a regional approach due to certain qualifications, and she hopes that the SBCCOG can look into that as a sub-region. She also expressed her concern to the legislative staff present that military working dogs currently cannot be shipped back to the US after they are deployed work unless families pay for it. She believes this should be done through Federal funds.
- Greg Carpenter, El Segundo City Manager, asked about updates on helicopter noise. Local Elected Officials are trying to pass legislation that would require the FAA to regulate flight paths and altitudes for helicopters operating in Los Angeles County. Public safety, military and medical flights would be exempted. Both Maurice Lyles and Bill Orton referred to the FAA's response (regulating helicopter flights would be extremely difficult, given the complexity of this region's airspace and the large volume of aircraft.) Voluntary measures (below 1600 feet) are already in place with good results, but more time is needed to determine the extent of the problem and who is responsible. The FAA contends that many of the problem flights could involve law enforcement aircraft. Improvements could be made sooner with a voluntary approach, they said, rather than developing regulations, a process that would take considerable time. Instead of blanket regulations, the FAA officials said they wanted to work with community groups, pilots and elected officials to come up with guidelines to deal with specific problems. Among other things, the FAA is willing to consider modifications to flight paths, altitude restrictions, limiting hovering times, more outreach to pilots and a comprehensive complaint system for the public.
- Inglewood Councilman Franklin emphasized that the lack of federal earmarks really raises the need for assistance in grants for all types of projects. Meal subsidies for seniors are being impacted by sequestration as well.
- Steve Lantz asked Maurice Lyles for an update on the renewal of MAP 21 on the next agenda.

**Public Comment-** None

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:48 a.m. until October 10, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marcy Hiratzka  
SBCCOG Board Secretary