

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Briefing & Breakfast with Legislative District Staff Meeting Notes

Thursday, January 14, 2016

8:00 am – 9:30 am

South Bay Cities Council of Governments Theatre
Torrance, California 90501

SBCCOG Board Member and City of Redondo Beach Councilman Christian Horvath chaired the meeting and called it to order at 8:13 am and proceeded with the flag salute. The following individuals introduced themselves:

Elected Officials and Board Members

Justin Massey, Hermosa Beach
Ralph Franklin, Inglewood
Suzanne Fuentes, El Segundo
Patrick Furey, Torrance
Christian Horvath, Redondo Beach
James Vandever, PVE
Heidi Ashcraft, Torrance
Steve Napolitano, LA County D4
Hany Fangary, Hermosa Beach

City Staff

Kenneth Farfsing, Carson
Cecil Rhambo, Jr., Carson
Eleanor Jones-Barthe, Torrance
Maria Slaughter, Carson
Jesus Ramirez, Torrance
Anton Dahlerbruch, PVE

Legislative Representatives

Joey Apodaca, Congressman Lieu
Lara Larramendi, Congresswoman Hahn
James LaFourche, Senator Hall
Robert Pullen-Miles, Assemblymember Burke
Tom Brewer, Assemblymember Hadley

Other Agencies

Danielle Valentino, Metro
Josh La Farga, LiUNA Local 1309
Laborers Union
Jeff Kiernan, League of California Cities
Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG
Steve Lantz, SBCCOG
Natalie Champion, SBCCOG
Rosemary Lackow, SBCCOG
Renee Daigneault, SBCCOG
Javiera Cartagena, SCAG

SBCCOG Program Update

Jacki Bacharach discussed the dedicated homelessness services that the SBCCOG is starting in February through a partnership with LA County through PATH (People Assisting The Homeless). The SBCCOG will have its first meetings on homelessness on February 3 with city staff and the 11th with elected officials in the South Bay. Regarding the energy leader partnership, Jacki shared that the SBCCOG is a grantee of Southern CA Edison, which provides cities incentives for energy efficiency and discussed the green building challenge for South Bay businesses to engage in a friendly competition for energy efficiency. Additionally, Jacki shared that the SBCCOG has been following the proposed sales tax and has been advocating for neighborhoods and 25% for the local return program. Jacki emphasized the need for alternative land use patterns to qualify for state funds through Cap and Trade. Lastly, Jacki invited legislators and staff to attend the General Assembly on February 26, which will provide opportunities for demonstrations and hands-on experiences with technology and a tribute to LA County Supervisor Don Knabe.

City Issues Identified for Discussion & Dialogue

Councilman Christian Horvath requested comments or questions regarding city issues with Inglewood Councilman Ralph Franklin emphasizing water consumption and mandates by the Governor to cities to reduce water use and the penalty assessments placed on cities having a difficult time reducing water consumption. Jacki referenced the handout of a letter from the City of Lomita entitled, "City of Lomita City Council Adopts Resolution Supporting Petitions to the FAA Urging Regulatory Action to Reduce Helicopter Noise." Kenneth Farsing of Carson reiterated what Jacki discussed during her presentation, specifically the local return and discretion for cities and the importance of the League of CA Cities focus on stormwater funding advocating that the new sales tax measure have 2% set aside for Green Streets. Steve Lantz of the SBCCOG discussed local return and the issue with eligibility of a project and whether the SBCCOG will take a position on the eligibility of stormwater as part of the upcoming measure.

Federal Offices

Congressman Ted Lieu's Office representative Joey Apodaca discussed [Fiscal Year 2016 Department of Veterans Affairs Seismic Safety and Construction Authorization Act](#), which brought \$35 million to the West LA Veterans Affairs for seismic reconstruction and retrofitting. The bill will bring \$563 million to support CA projects overall. Congressman Lieu convened the inaugural meeting of the Elected Officials Council on Veterans. A first of its kind coalition, it brought together elected leaders from all levels of government to address the needs of local veterans. Additionally, Joey mentioned that the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs held a hearing to address homelessness among veterans, specifically addressing [H.R. 3484: Los Angeles Homeless Veterans Leasing Act of 2015](#) that allows Veteran Affairs to enter into enhanced-use leases to serve the largest homeless veterans population in the United States. He further discussed the ExxonMobil refinery press conference and cited an LA

Times article that highlighted ExxonMobil's scientists acknowledging the link of carbon emissions to climate change. Congressman Lieu responded by sending a letter to the US Department of Justice requesting an investigation to ascertain if any laws were broken regarding what Exxon Mobil knew about climate change and when. Lastly, Joey shared that Congressman Lieu issued a statement that the House of Representatives reauthorized the Export Import Bank and also on a bipartisan resolution that he is championing regarding the US-Israel economic relationship, specifically the tech trade relationship resulting from the 30-year US-Israel Free Trade Agreement.

Congresswoman Janice Hahn's Office representative Lara Larramendi mentioned the Omnibus Passage and the Congresswoman's priorities in the bill including a provision for securing the ports from cyber attacks and increasing the funding for the ports out of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. The omnibus bill allocates \$1.2 billion from the Harbor maintenance trust fund to go back to the ports, which is \$299 million above President Obama's request, due to the Congresswoman's efforts in the [Water Resource Reform and Development Act \(WRRDA\)](#). Ports such as Long Beach and Los Angeles will receive a greater percentage of this funding than they previously did. Lara thanked the SBCCOG for supporting the Congresswoman's amendments to improve the Highway Bill, which passed in the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The Congresswoman's amendments allowed for the federal freight funding to go to roads connecting ports to major highways and to increase the number of young people receiving job training in the transportation industry. Additionally, Lara stated that the House Small Business Committee passed an amendment offered by Congresswoman Hahn to close a loophole in existing law preventing small businesses from fairly competing for a type of federal contract called task order contracts ([H.R. 4341 Defending America's Small Contractors Act of 2016](#)). Additionally, Lara discussed [H.R. 563: Honoring Our WWII Merchant Mariners Act of 2015](#) and the Congresswoman's desire to recognize the 5,000 surviving World War II Merchant Marine veterans and provide them with modest payment as a token of gratitude. Lastly, Lara discussed the importance of the Army Corp of Engineers in making repairs to the San Pedro breakwater, which is vulnerable to breaching and could pose a potential disaster at the Port of Los Angeles. Congresswoman Hahn has sent a letter to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) Jo Ellen Darcy urging her to act on the Congresswoman's request for additional funding to make the emergency repairs.

State Offices

Senator Isadore Hall's representative James LaFourche discussed the economic difficulties for small businesses during the Great Recession and afterwards on economic growth. He mentioned the Senator's confidence in the legislature passing a timely, balanced budget by June 15, 2016 that invests in public education, job creation and addresses the Drought. Moreover, James mentioned the senator's priorities, particularly education and the passage of the local control funding formula for public education, with a specific focus on skill-based training and career technical education, especially for the aerospace and energy industry. James emphasized the importance of legislation including [SB 357: Private Railroad Car Tax](#) and [SB 63: Seaport Infrastructure](#)

[Financing Districts](#) in addressing the modernization of the ports and shared that the Senator chairs the Senate Subcommittee on Emergencies, Disaster Response and Port Security.

Assemblymember David Hadley's representative Tom Brewer mentioned the ExxonMobil February 18, 2015 incident and the press conference held on January 13, 2016 and how the Assemblymember has been meeting with a variety of stakeholder groups. The Assemblymember is aware of the impact of ExxonMobil's Torrance refinery on creating jobs in the South Bay and will be taking a comprehensive look into the ongoing investigation before taking a position on whether or not there should be legislative action to ban the use of modified hydrofluoric acid (HF). The Assemblymember will also meet with labor groups to get their perspective on the issue and has already met with ExxonMobil regarding the [February 18, 2015 explosion](#). The Assemblymember has legislation pending specifically aimed at modifying asset forfeiture that police are receiving and seeing to increase funding for such efforts. Tom further discussed that the Assemblymember is meeting with other groups in the South Bay to see if there's any legislation that may have been overlooked. The Assemblymember plans on having a modest legislative agenda for the upcoming year, with approximately 10 bills he is looking to introduce. Tom referenced [AB 803: School Districts Reorganization: Formation of New School Districts](#), which would have allowed for the formation of new school districts; the bill died in committee, but is being considered for reintroduction. With the assistance of Assemblymember Autumn Burke, Assemblymember Hadley was able to pass [AB 306: Public Schools: Attendance Alternatives: Children of Military Personnel](#) that allows active duty personnel at the Los Angeles Air Force Base to have a choice for school districts for their children, which is thereby increasing the number of people who desire to be stationed at this location. This couples with the desire for the Los Angeles Air Force Base to receive more visibility as an asset in the South Bay and the region. Regarding the SoCal Regional Occupation Center, the Assemblymember has met with them to address the lack of dedicated funding and is currently reviewing alternatives.

Assemblymember Autumn Burke's representative Robert Pullen-Miles discussed the representative's legislative focus on access and accountability, particularly in regard to vital services like education and healthcare. Robert mentioned several of the Assemblymember's bills including: [AB 1361: Student Financial Aid: Cal Grant Program: Veterans](#), that would have given all veterans, regardless of their age, an opportunity to pursue a college degree; [AB 1436: In-home Supportive Services: Authorized Representative](#) that allows for an authorized representative to manage the details of the care, whether it's assisting with the program application or scheduling caregiver hours and services; and [AB 852: Public Works: Prevailing Wages](#), which requires private contractors using public financing to build health facilities to pay the prevailing wage. Additionally, Robert shared the Assemblymember's district priorities include overseeing the Inglewood Unified School District, in collaboration with the new Superintendent, removal from receivership status back to local control. The Assemblymember will continue to be supportive of the Los Angeles Air Force Base and is currently working on the stewardship of the Ballona Wetlands, which is slated for a state-managed restoration plan and facilitating the bringing together of stakeholders and community to

determine the best way to preserve the habitat, while ensuring public access to the wetlands. Lastly, Robert emphasized that transportation will be a big issue for the Assemblymember in 2016, specifically around Complete Streets and pedestrian safety, in addition to career technical education and training, as she is the chair for the Select Committee on Career Technical Education and Building a 21st Century Workforce.

Steve Napolitano, representing Los Angeles County District 4 Supervisor Don Knabe, discussed El Nino and the application called The Works to have public works address any issues that need to be fixed. He also discussed how LA County released its [Homeless Initiative Draft Recommendations](#), which is out for public review and comment. Additionally, Steve also shared that a Civilian Oversight Commission was approved for the LA County Sheriff's Department. Councilman Hany Fangary of Hermosa Beach wanted to know about the mental illness issues facing the homeless and if LA County is working with nonprofits and other direct services providers. Mayor Suzanne Fuentes of El Segundo thanked Supervisor Knabe for his efforts and service. Moreover, Kenneth Farfing also thanked Supervisor Knabe and PATH as a great resource for cities, with Steve also thanking Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas' office for their contribution to PATH.

Jeff Kiernan of the League of CA Cities discussed AB 21, a bill that would eliminate the March 1st deadline for cities to enact cultivation regulations related to the [Medical Marijuana Safety and Regulation Act](#) that was passed last year. If cities do not have an ordinance related to cultivation that is active by March 1st, the state will assume control over cultivation in that jurisdiction. Jeff encouraged cities to get an ordinance on the books prior to the March deadline in the event AB 21 does not pass. Lastly, Jeff shared that the League of CA Cities is working on issues of homelessness, transportation funding, the new and shared economy, and crime and invited those in attendance to the January 29th League Legislative Meet and Greet from 8:30 am -10:00 am at the Nakano Theater in Torrance.

Public Comment - There was no public comments.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Board Member Christian Horvath adjourned the meeting at 9:27 am until Thursday, April 14, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,
Natalie Champion
South Bay Cities Council of Governments