

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Briefing & Breakfast with Legislative District Staff Meeting Notes

Thursday, July 13, 2017
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Theatre
Torrance, California 90501

SBCCOG Chair & Torrance Mayor Pro Tem Kurt Weideman called the meeting to order at 8:08 am and proceeded with the flag salute. The following individuals introduced themselves:

Elected Officials and Board Members

Kurt Weideman, Torrance
Hany Fangary, Hermosa Beach
Heidi Ashcraft, Torrance
Nancy Hersman, Manhattan Beach
Britt Huff, Rolling Hills Estates
Kenneth Kao, Palos Verdes Estates

Representatives of Legislators

Sabiha Khan, US Senator Feinstein
Cameron Onumah, US Senator Feinstein
Lauren Pizer-Mains, CA State Senator
Ben Allen
Robert Pullen-Miles, Assemblymember
Autumn Burke
Sarah Patterson, Assemblymember
Patrick O Donnell
Cody Bridges, Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi
Aurelia Friedman, Congressman Ted Lieu
Joey Apodaca, Congressman Ted Lieu
Cody Bridges, Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi
Mark Waronek, LA County Supervisor
Janice Hahn

City Staff

Jacqueline Wu, Palos Verdes Estates
Eleanor Jones, Torrance

Other Agencies

David Gamboa, CSUDH
Sharon Green LA County Sanitation District
Tina Cox, AQMD
Jeff Kiernan, League of CA Cities
Javiera Cartagena, SCAG
Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG
Natalie Champion, SBCCOG
Rosemary Lackow, SBCCOG
David Leger, SBCCOG
Steve Lantz, SBCCOG

Program Update

SBCCOG Executive Director Jacki Bacharach discussed program updates including broadband, homelessness and other special projects. She mentioned that the Broadband Feasibility Study is complete and that the Executive Summary is on the SBCCOG website. She shared that the SBCCOG will be sponsoring Brown Bag Lunches for cities to learn more about broadband, applications and the definition of a smart city. The first meeting is being held today and the next one on August 23. The

South Bay Workforce Investment Board has contributed approximately \$90,000 for this project and will be providing an additional \$15,000 for the continuation of the broadband feasibility study. Moreover, there is a pending request with Los Angeles County Supervisors Janice Hahn and Mark Ridley-Thomas to provide matching funds for an additional \$90,000. If said additional funds are received, the SBCCOG will meet with each city to identify specific city facilities for broadband connection and verify what cities are currently paying for broadband. This information will assist the SBCCOG in writing a request for proposal to capture the actual costs of broadband in the South Bay and help cities sign up to receive better service at a lower cost. Regarding homeless services, the LA County Board of Supervisors voted to fund PATH for another year. Additionally, the Supervisors have allocated funding for Councils of Governments and cities, approximately \$75,000 to conduct city coordination for homeless services. The SBCCOG is currently soliciting ideas from cities to identify the best practices for providing such services and will be reporting to the County in order to access said funds. PATH has engaged 766 individuals and placed 62 people into interim housing in addition to 113 people into permanent housing.

Ms. Bacharach shared that the SBESC is writing climate action plans for every city, which should be completed by the end of the year. The SBESC plans on attending city council meetings to facilitate the adoption of these plans for each city. Moreover, regarding the Energy Leader Program funded by Southern California Edison, cities are rewarded with increased incentive funding for conducting energy efficiency projects. Currently the South Bay region has the highest participation rate with five cities at the platinum level, nine cities with gold status and one city that is silver, but is moving to gold. Ms. Bacharach mentioned the SBESC classes on California friendly landscaping, gray water, rain barrel giveaways, and cash for kitchens encouraging energy efficiency. Regarding the sanitation district, the SBCCOG is discussing a Clearwater Tunnel project and assessing the impacts and benefits it will have to the South Bay. Other SBCCOG programs include Van Pool and Travel Pal, the online mobility tool to help people get around in the South Bay.

On Measure M, the SBCCOG is working with Metro on its Policy Advisory Committee on administrative guidelines and the Long Range Plan. Ms. Bacharach confirmed that Metro did adopt the general guidelines for Measure M. The SBCCOG held a few meetings on short-term rentals, inviting speakers for cities to ask questions. We are also seeking an Air BNB representative for the next meeting in August 30. The Coyote Management meetings are going well and the Cities of Torrance and Culver City discussed their best practices. The next meeting will have a lawyer discuss CEQA compliance issues. Ms. Bacharach emphasized that this is the only regional coyote task force in the United States. She discussed how cannabis regulations are an emerging topic for cities and that the SBCCOG plans to host a meeting on August 24, which will include lawyers and cities that have worked on such regulations to disseminate information and hear from experts.

The SBCCOG is working on grant proposals including a micro-grid with the City of Carson, which would make the city's facilities and parks zero-net energy. The development of electric charging station plans will be submitted to the California Energy Commission by the end of the year and with the potential to be awarded approximately

\$20 million to the City of Carson. The SBCCOG is also working with the City of Inglewood on a car-sharing and micro-transit first and last mile project. Lastly, Ms. Bacharach discussed the General Assembly scheduled for February 23, 2018 with a focus on the evolution of retail and how cities should look at the land-use issues, especially as malls and strip malls lose popularity and how this impacts cities' finance and property sales and utility taxes. Ms. Bacharach welcomed ideas from attendees for speakers.

The SBCCOG Program update PowerPoint presentation is on the SBCCOG website at: http://www.southbaycities.org/sites/default/files/legislative_staff/PRESENTATION_7.13.17%20-%20%20briefing%20for%20leg.%20staff_-%20updated.pdf

City Comments

Mr. Weideman welcomed cities in attendance to identify issues for discussion and dialogue. He asked the federal representatives what the prospects are for a government shutdown and inquired about the return of earmarks. Hermosa Beach Councilmember and Board Member Hany Fangary inquired about the Vista Del Mar and Playa Del Rey traffic issues.

Federal Offices

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein representatives Cameron Onumah and Sabiha Khan discussed healthcare and how Republicans have released a revised version of the health care bill. Mr. Onumah mentioned that the Congressional delegation is united in their opposition to this legislation and that Senator Feinstein commented that, "this is the most indefensible piece of legislation she has seen in 24 years" and has called this legislation "Robin Hood in reverse" specifically for how it takes from the poor and gives to the very wealthy providing them with billions of dollars of tax cuts. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, \$3.4 trillion in cuts to Medicare over 20 years would take place if this bill is enacted, of which, \$800 billion would take place in the first decade. The state of California would lose \$115 billion annually in Medicaid reimbursements from the federal government by 2037 and according to the Congressional Budget Office, 22 million people could lose their coverage by 2026, including 4 million Californians. Medicaid covers one in three people in California, three in five nursing patients and one and two children. The Senator has taken interest in children's hospitals and how those children might be impacted by these cuts. Mr. Onumah is seeking to hear from cities and constituents about how said cuts will affect cities with major hospitals and healthcare providers and identifying the percentage of constituents on Medicaid and the revenue generated from Medicaid and potential impacts should these facilities close. Mr. Onumah emphasized that this is an area where the South Bay could come together in conjunction with the federal government.

Ms. Khan stated that in terms of a government shutdown, the current funding is through September and that there may be stop-gap funding through next year. The Senator's environmental priorities include climate change and national monument designation preservation. She mentioned this would be her last meeting as she is moving to Washington DC. Mr. Onumah shared that a city in Southern California notified their office that the Department of Housing and Urban Development failed to provide

reimbursements and urged cities to contact him immediately if similar instances are taking place.

Congressman Ted Lieu representative Joey Apodaca introduced Aurelia Friedman who will cover the cities of Torrance, Rolling Hills and Rolling Hills Estates. Regarding cyber security, Congressman Lieu introduced a bipartisan bill entitled [HACK the Department of Homeland Security Act](#), which would pay highly screened hackers to infiltrate the Department of Homeland Security. He also introduced a [resolution reaffirming the US commitment for the protection of refugees and displaced persons](#). The Congressman sits on the Committee of Foreign Affairs where he focuses on making sure the administration has a legal strategy. He is concerned about the Syrian issue, but understands that the Constitution is clear that the government cannot attack unless it is in self-defense. Mr. Apodaca mentioned that the administration intends to increase troop levels in Afghanistan. Congressman Lieu acknowledges that it has been 16 years with no military solution. Mr. Apodaca shared that the President has introduced an [infrastructure plan](#) and Congressman Lieu, in addition to his congressional allies, have introduced their own infrastructure plan which is a [21st century new deal for jobs](#). The American Society of Civil Engineers has estimated that America has \$4.6 trillion in infrastructure needs. Lastly, Mr. Apodaca discussed how the Los Angeles Veteran Affairs has been conducting controversial experiments on dogs and how the Congressman was very irate upon discovering these practices. The Congressman has inquired regarding the medical values of the experiments and shared his questions and concerns with the VA Office of Inspector General. On June 9, the VA announced that it is terminating the dog experiment programs. Mr. Apodaca explained that Building 209 on the VA campus has opened with 54 units of 1,200 units of permanent supportive housing in the West LA VA campus, which include wraparound case management for veterans. Regarding Vista Del Mar, Congressman Lieu's Office reached out to Los Angeles City Councilman Mike Bonin's Office and plans on reaching out to Mayor Garcetti's Office. Board Member and Rolling Hills Estates City Councilmember Britt Huff inquired about the completion of the 1,200 units at the LA VA campus with Mr. Apodaca stating within the next few years.

LA County

LA County Board of Supervisor Janice Hahn's Office representative and Lomita Mayor Mark Waronek discussed the [Vista Del Mar issue](#), particularly how LA County Supervisor Hahn drove on Vista Del Mar to experience first-hand all the concerns raised by constituents. The Supervisor will be meeting with elected officials in the South Bay to discuss this matter further, and stated that LA County does not have jurisdiction, but is looking for alternative ways to tackle this issue. Mr. Waronek also commented on the \$600,000 going to PATH with a breakdown of \$350,000 coming from Supervisor Hahn's office and \$250,000 from Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' office, which will be coming from the homeless prevention initiative fund. He also stated that the Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to allow the Hermosa Beach Fire Department to become a part of the LA County Fire District. Out of 2,866 firefighters in LA County, there are 45 woman firefighters. Ms. Bacharach stated that there's 25,000 vehicles that travel on Vista Del Mar daily and that this is not a local street; she asked if there are some metrics that could be established in [Metro's Long-Range Plan](#), especially since Metro has divided

rail into local and regional. She emphasized that there is a need to divide street networks into local and regional as a way to establish policy.

State Offices

Representative Lauren Pizer-Mains of CA State Senator Benjamin Allen's Office shared that their office has also been involved in the Vista Del Mar issue and continues to speak with concerned constituents, as well as with LA Councilman Mike Bonin's staff, and hopes that through continued public input, and continued conversations, a resolution will surface on how to decrease the congestion.

Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi representative Cody Bridges discussed the [Refinery bill package: A.B. 1646](#) would require risk management plans and [A.B. 1647](#) focuses on air quality monitors both passed the Senate Standing Committee on Environmental Quality; [A.B. 1649](#) focuses on the interagency task force also passed the Senate Standing Committee on Environmental. [A.B. 994](#), a design-build bill for the Beach Cities Health District passed the Senate Governance and Finance Committee unanimously and is now in Appropriations. [A.B. 562 the Audit Protection Act](#) passed the Senate Standing Committee on Public Safety; [A.B. 491 the Civil Liberties Public Education Bill](#) passed the Senate Standing Committee on Education this week and is now in Appropriations; [A.B. 360](#), which will provide free legal aid to veterans passed the Senate Standing Committee on Judiciary and is now on the floor of the Senate. Lastly, Mr. Bridges shared that the Assemblymember is hosting a Child Safety Day next Saturday at Hickory Elementary School in Torrance from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Assemblymember Autumn Burke's representative and Lawndale Mayor Robert Pullen-Miles shared that the Assemblymember has 12 bills with the majority of those bills centering on climate change. [A.B. 51](#) is a two-year bill that addresses the Global Warming Solutions Act; [A.B. 1081](#), which is being held in suspense, focuses on zero emission vehicles and eliminating the sales tax during trade-ins for such vehicles. [A.B. 1082](#) encourages the installation of electric vehicle charging stations at public schools is in the Committee on Education; [A.B. 1083](#) promotes the installation of electric vehicle charging stations at state beaches and parks and is in the Committee on Natural Resources. [A.B. 1623](#) builds on the climate action plan program, which will require the Strategic Growth Council to consult with the legislature to report on all the projects that are currently being funded through the program. It will allow community-based organizations and municipalities to do climate action programs; there is \$140 billion earmarked for such programs and the legislator wants to make sure that they know about all the programs that are being implemented. The Assemblymember has three bills that are supporting working families, including [A.B. 1520 the California Lift Every Child and Family Out of Poverty Act](#) that seeks to reduce child poverty by 50 percent. The bill requires the development of a task force to review child poverty issues and it also requires that any safety-net programs that have been proven to bring families out of poverty receive preferential treatment in the budgetary process. [A.B. 1060](#) is two-year bill that would designate Metro as a legislative body providing it with an additional tool to finance the Crenshaw connector. [A.B. 818](#) is a CalWorks bill that will provide a 24-month extension to those who continue their education. On July 29, the Assemblymember will be hosting her third annual Back-to-School Health and Wellness

Fair in the City of Lawndale and will be providing at least 1,000 backpacks and health screenings.

Sarah Patterson representing Assemblymember Patrick O Donnell's Office thanked the SBCCOG for supporting [A.B. 1274](#). The Assemblymember is Chair of the Education Committee and his bill [A.B. 445](#), the Career Technical Education (CTE) Grant program, is currently being held in Appropriations with a hearing scheduled for the Fall. The bill would allow for general funds to go to a special grant program to help incentivize CTE programs. [A.B. 699](#) would prohibit I.C.E. agents from being on school sites unless they have a judicial warrant and approval from the district superintendent, and is currently in the Senate Appropriations. [A.B. 485](#) is a puppy mills bill that would make it illegal to sell puppies, kittens and bunnies from such mills.

Agency Comments

Jeff Kiernan from the League of CA Cities inquired about a package of housing proposals and the legislative representatives in attendance shared that they would look into it. He mentioned the League's successes, including [S.B. 1](#) and transportation funding; [A.B. 1250](#) and the exclusion of prohibiting contracting in cities. Mr. Kiernan distributed a handout on [S.B. 649](#) and highlighted the concerns of small cell towers on health and asked cities to call their legislative offices about this bill; 200 cities oppose this bill, including the media.

Javiera Cartagena of Southern California Association of Governments discussed how a SCAG team went to Sacramento to discuss cap and trade and regional equity, especially considering that Southern California has 50 percent of the population and 67 percent of disadvantaged communities, yet Southern California only receives 30 percent of cap and trade funding. There is no funding mechanism as part of the bills and the guidelines for the over 30 programs through cap and trade position Southern California at a disadvantage. The bills therein are [A.B. 398](#) and [A.B. 617](#); SCAG is supportive of the program but is advocating for Southern California's fair share of the funding.

David Gamboa of California State University Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) shared that two weeks ago CSUDH, in collaboration with Senator Steven Bradford, hosted a forum with Governor Brown and Transportation Secretary Kelly, on S.B. 1 the Transportation Bill that included leaders from the South Bay with the purpose of diversifying infrastructure contracts. Through the University's Economic Institute, CSUDH partners with cities to research needs of interest when applying for S.B. 1 and is currently working with the South Bay Workforce Investment Board. Additionally, CSUDH will be conducting its South Bay Economic Forecast on October 5 with the theme of a "Region in Transition: Changes and Trends in Consumer Behavior."

Adjourn

There being no further business Chair Weideman adjourned the meeting at 9:32 am until Thursday, October 12, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,

Natalie Champion, South Bay Cities Council of Governments