

# **South Bay Cities Council of Governments**

## **Breakfast with Legislative District Staff Thursday, January 8, 2015 MINUTES**

South Bay Cities Council of Governments' Theatre  
20285 Western Avenue, Torrance, California 90501

Chair Jim Goodhart called the meeting to order at 8:17 am and proceeded with the flag salute. The following individuals introduced themselves:

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

Steve Napolitano, LA County – District 4  
Mike Dugan, El Segundo  
Suzanne Fuentes, El Segundo  
Olivia Valentine, Hawthorne  
Hany Fangary, Hermosa Beach  
Joe Buscaino, Los Angeles – District 15  
Jim Goodhart, Palos Verdes Estates  
Ellen Perkins, Palos Verdes Estates  
Kit Fox, Rancho Palos Verdes  
Bea Dieringer, Rolling Hills  
Judith Mitchell, Rolling Hills Estates  
Steven Zuckerman, Rolling Hills Estates  
Kurt Weideman, Torrance

### **City Staff**

Greg Carpenter, El Segundo  
Caroline Velarde, Hawthorne  
Jacob Haik, Los Angeles – District 15  
Joe Mendoza, Palos Verdes Estates  
Eleanor Jones, Torrance

### **Legislative Representatives**

Sabiha Khan, US Senator Feinstein  
Samantha David, Senator Allen  
Robert Pullen-Miles, Assemblymember  
Burke  
Christopher Wilson, Assemblymember  
Gipson  
Brian Mineghino, Assemblymember O'  
Donnell  
Tom Brewer, Assemblymember Hadley

### **Other Agencies**

Patricia Donaldson, Hawthorne Chamber  
of Commerce  
Jeff Kiernan, League of California Cities  
Jacki Bacharach, SBCCCOG  
Natalie Champion, SBCCCOG  
Rosemary Lacklow, SBCCCOG  
Steve Lantz, SBCCCOG  
Chris Cagle, South Bay WIB

### **SBCCOG Work Program Update and Legislative**

Jacki Bacharach provided highlights of SBCCCOG activities since the last legislative briefing. She discussed the Google trip at which the SBCCCOG presented its research on neighborhood electric vehicles. In December, a delegation from Shanghai's Environmental Audit Department met with the SBESC to discuss its energy efficiency program. Regarding the Work Program, Jacki shared how the SBCCCOG is exploring homeless services and financing through County programs. Moreover, Jacki stated that there is a new representative on the Metro board, Inglewood Mayor Butts who was officially nominated by the South Bay sector. Jacki shared that the SBCCCOG received two new grant awards - one deals with energy efficiency through Energy Upgrade California, a program for neighborhood energy upgrades that includes working with the Environmental Charter School to conduct presentations throughout the South Bay. The

second grant is from the California Energy Commission to research electric charging in multi-family dwellings throughout the South Bay, in partnership with the UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation. Regarding legislative issues, Jacki mentioned SoCal ROC and the lack of dedicated funding as a high-priority issue. The SBCCOG has tried to get the Governor's Office to visit SoCal ROC and would welcome assistance from state legislators in getting someone from the Governors' office to attend. Additionally, the SBCCOG had a meeting with Southern CA Edison regarding the reliability of electrical infrastructure and the lack of proper notification to cities regarding construction, permitting and other insufficiencies; the SBCCOG wants the Public Utilities Commission to be aware of this issue with electrical infrastructure, especially with the change in leadership at the Commission. Jacki mentioned the issue that many SBCCOG member cities have with helicopter noise and drones. The Federal Aviation Administration is supposed to be issuing regulations in January and the SBCCOG will be following this issue to make sure that the cities' needs are met. Jacki discussed the need to support the LA Air Force Base and the call to action of the LA Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC); The LA Air Force Base support 6,000 direct jobs in the South Bay, however, it was cited in a publication that the LA Air Force Base was the worst base in the nation. The LAEDC wants the SBCCOG to support its call to action to save the LA Air Force Base. Regarding the Harbor Gateway Transit Center, Jacki explained that Caltrans owns the center and Metro wants to maintain it and take it over but it has gotten caught in the bureaucracy. SBCCOG supports the transfer to Metro. Jacki also discussed the ExpressLanes, specifically how the revenues must be utilized in the corridor from which the revenue is collected under current law. Jacki shared that Metro may possibly pursue being able to use ExpressLane revenue anywhere, not just in the specified corridor; Jacki emphasized that the SBCCOG does not support this and will be monitoring this issue. Additionally, Metro is considering another sales tax that would require authorization from the state and evidence as to how current sales tax revenues are spent. The SBCCOG wants to ensure that the next sales tax addresses local needs. Lastly, Jacki discussed cap and trade and funding allocation, specifically with an emphasis on inner cities and transit oriented development. Jacki described how areas like the South Bay, which does not have a robust transit system and multi-story buildings are not prioritized in receiving said funds, due in part to "congestion relief level of service" no longer being a parameter in evaluating projects, but rather, reduction in vehicle miles traveled. Jacki shared that the Economic Development Directors' Meeting will take place on January 15 at 2:30 pm at the SBCCOG office; the LAEDC will be in attendance to discuss the LA Air Force Base issue and all are welcome to attend. The Livable Communities meeting is on January 21 at 2:30 pm and will include Wally Siembab discussing the effect of disruptive technologies in land use and transportation planning, which he also presented at SCAG. Jacki shared that on January 22 at the Board of Directors' meeting, the SBCCOG will be honoring outgoing legislators and on January 23 from 8:30 am to 10 am, the SBCCOG will be co-sponsoring a Meet and Greet with the South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce and the LA County Division of the League of California Cities for new legislators in the South Bay at the Nakano Theatre in Torrance (the flyer was distributed at the meeting). Jacki also shared that the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (WIB) is having a Business Retention Workshop to train cities on how they can go door-to-door to work with their businesses

to keep them in the city and provide businesses with services that they need, available through the respective cities. Lastly, Jacki shared the SBCCOG General Assembly on February 27 and described the topical areas for the speakers around identifying what makes our neighborhoods great; Jacki referenced the Facebook page and the letters to legislators inviting them to have an exhibit so that they can engage with residents and other attendees.

Jim Goodhart mentioned that the Governor will be releasing his budget tomorrow and stated that he would be meeting with the President of the SoCal ROC Board of Education to discuss the impact of the lack of funding on schools. Jim Goodhart wanted to see if Assemblymember David Hadley could assist with scheduling a meeting with SCE and the PUC on the electric reliability issue to determine their progress on this issue. Suzanne Fuentes shared that the LAEDC and the SoCal Jobs Defense Council have also been looking into the LA Air Force Base, which started with sequestration and stated that she met with Assemblymember Hadley and his staff; Suzanne stated El Segundo City Manager Greg Carpenter is working on scheduling a tour for the recently elected state officials including Assemblymember Burke, Senator Hall and Allen. Judy Mitchell inquired about what we can do to show support for the LA Air Force Base and what are they looking for when they say that the community doesn't support the Air Force Base. Suzanne mentioned that one of the issues is that housing for the base is located in San Pedro, approximately 30 minutes away, the quality of education at LAUSD and the cost of living in Los Angeles. Steven Zuckerman asked that a copy of the article be circulated among attendees. James Goodhart stated it would be interesting to know how they evaluate the level of support to the base; Suzanne stated that the evaluation focuses on the quality of life and Steve Napolitano reiterated the cost of living in Los Angeles and the impact on the base.

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

Bea Derringer stated that she recently read a decision from the CPUC where it indicated that they had nixed any efforts by communities to opt out from smart meters that any of the utilities would want to place in a community. Bea shared the lack of timely communication by the CPUC and requested that the SBCCOG create a concerted effort to have a dialogue with the CPUC and/or sponsor an effort to make the CPUC representatives elected versus appointed by the Governor to ensure greater responsiveness. Jim Goodhart shared that the League of California Cities may have more leverage on this issue. Jeff Kiernan said that he would check to see if there any updates on this issue.

### **Federal Offices**

Sabiha Khan from US Senator Dianne Feinstein's Office introduced herself and stated she would be representing the South Bay regional area.

### **State Offices**

Samantha David from Senator Ben Allen's Office shared that she looks forward to working with the SBCCOG and asked that we reach out to her if there are any issues or concerns that the Senator can assist with resolving.

Christopher Wilson from Assemblymember Mike Gipson's office stated that he used to work for former Assemblymember Bonnie Lowenthal and that he looks forward to working with the SBCCOG.

Tom Brewer representing Assemblymember David Hadley's Office shared that the Assemblymember has worked extensively on the LA Air Force Base issue and stated that the Assemblymember is reaching out to the former committee members that former Councilman John Parsons put together, to review and keep this issue in the "active file." Tom also shared that the Assemblymember is meeting with former Congresswoman Jane Harman and former Air Force officer Tom Donnelly to get them on board since this is one of the biggest issues that the South Bay will face. Furthermore, Tom stated that another issue that Assemblymember Hadley is working on is SoCal ROC and that he is also scheduling meetings with cities in his district to find out what the concerns are that they can help with.

Brian Mineghino from Assemblymember Patrick O' Donnell's office shared that the Assemblymember is the Chair of the Assembly Education Committee, and that the Assemblymember has been a teacher for over twenty years. The Assemblymember will focus on addressing issues including education, the ports, and transportation and looks forward to working with the SBCCOG.

Robert Pullen-Miles is the District Director from Assemblymember Autumn Burke's Office and stated that the Assemblymember has been assigned to the committees on rules, accountability and administrative review, utilities and commerce, housing and senior development and perhaps a select committee in the near future. The Assemblymember is still in the process of putting together staff and is interested in career technical education and offering school districts incentives through private entity funding, which will also allow for local and state government participation. The Assemblymember has signed onto a bill for the application authorization for the Olympic Committee. Lastly, the Assemblymember wants to hear from cities and the SBCCOG regarding ideas on how she can work with each, respectively.

Jim Goodhart welcomed the support of all of the state representatives on the SoCal ROC issue and encouraging the Governor's office to visit the facility; Suzanne Fuentes encouraged the Assemblymember to tour SoCal ROC as well.

Patricia Donaldson asked Councilman Joe Buscaino if the LA City Council is able to help out in any way regarding the LA Air Force Base issue. Joe Buscaino emphasized their action through resolution and getting all levels of government to the table. Joe also stated that the MAX Bus ended the line for residents of Fort MacArthur to take the bus to El Segundo, causing a negative impact to the residents of San Pedro. Joe stated he would be meeting with Assemblymember Hadley to discuss this issue. Jim Goodhart stressed the widespread impact to the South Bay of the potential LA Air Force Base relocation. Suzanne Fuentes similarly echoed concern and shared that when she met with Assemblymember Judy Chu, the Assemblymember shared the impact of losing millions of dollars in revenue in her district alone. Suzanne further stated that the cost of

living and housing were the predominant factors classifying the Los Angeles Air Force Base as the worst in the country. Olivia Valentine suggested identifying if there are federal programs that could subsidize those living at the base to assist them with housing costs. Robert Pullen-Miles stated that LAUSD does not make it easy for students to transfer. Joe Buscaino recommended bringing federal officials together and asked them to share what they can do to preserve this critical economic asset. Steve Napolitano shared how federal officials representing Colorado are in support of the relocation of the LA Air Force Base. Jeff Kiernan stated that cities are required to provide affordable housing and how funding for affordable housing was previously available through redevelopment agencies; however, cities are still obligated to provide affordable housing in spite of cuts to said funding streams, which emphasizes the need in finding another stream for affordable housing.

### **Other Agencies**

Jeff Kiernan discussed the League of CA Cities' position on the massage parlor establishments and marijuana regulation. He shared that Assemblymember Ken Cooley supports this legislation. Additionally, Jeff mentioned affordable housing and clusters of group rehabilitation homes and the lack of integration into communities and neighborhoods. Jeff also shared that Governor Brown mentioned in the State of the State address the \$59 million earmarked for streets, bridges and roads. Other goals of the League are affordable housing, pension reform focusing on post employment benefits and health care costs increases and state employees pre-funding their own healthcare; cities tax structure and ensuring that cities receive their tax share and remittance from commerce generated through AirBnB Uber, and Amazon.

Chris Cagle from the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (WIB) shared that the WIB can assist legislative offices with recruiting their staff and that training reimbursements are available. Chris discussed information on the Business Retention Workshop at the end of the month that will identify what cities are doing around business retention. Chris mentioned that there might be a workshop on business attraction for cities by invitation only. Lastly, Chris shared that on January 20, the State Workforce Investment Board will consider adding the cities of Torrance and Lomita to the South Bay WIB district.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:18 am until Thursday, April 9, 2015.

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