

# South Bay Cities Council of Governments

## **Breakfast with Legislative District Staff**

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

8:00 am – 9:30 am

### **MINUTES**

South Bay Cities Council of Governments Theatre

20285 Western Avenue

Torrance, California 90501

Chair Dan Medina called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m.

**Flag Salute & Call to Order & Introductions** - The Flag Salute and Call to Order was conducted by Immediate Past Chair Ralph L. Franklin.

The following individuals introduced themselves and were in attendance:

#### Elected Officials and Board Members

Olivia Valentine, Hawthorne  
Chris Brown, Hawthorne  
Dan Medina, Gardena  
Ralph L Franklin, Inglewood  
Suzanne Fuentes, El Segundo  
Steve Napolitano, LA County District 4  
Bea Dieringer, Rolling Hills  
Pat Furey, Torrance  
Heidi Ashcraft, Torrance

#### Legislative Representatives

Maurice Lyles, Senator Boxer  
Michael Davies, Senator Feinstein  
Molly O' Brien, Senator Feinstein  
Erica Braxton-White, Congressman  
Waxman  
Marisol Barajas, Assembly Member  
Lowenthal  
Bill Orton, Senator Wright  
Timothy Lippman, Assembly Member Muratsuchi  
Jennifer Zivkovic, Senator Lieu

#### City Staff

Mark Waronek, Lomita  
Kit Fox, City of Rancho Palos Verdes  
Michael Goodson, Hawthorne  
Raymond Cruz's, Rolling Hills  
Eleanor Jones, Torrance  
Michael Rock, Lomita

#### Other Agencies

Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG  
Patricia Donaldson, SBACC  
Charles Gale, MWD  
Steve Lantz, SBCCOG  
Jeffrey Kiernan, League of California Cities  
Natalie Champion, SBCCOG  
Rosemary Locklow, SBCCOG  
Steve Lantz, SBCCOG

## **SBCCOG Work Program Update**

Jacki Bacharach and Steve Lantz provided an update on the activities of the SBCCOG since the last Legislative Briefing, including SBCCOG transportation, land use and environmental programs.

*Measure R* - Bacharach and Lantz discussed the Measure R highway program using a PowerPoint presentation. Lantz discussed the 40 projects that are underway, including the completion of highway programs in the City of Hawthorne on Rosecrans, two projects in the City of Redondo Beach on Aviation and Inglewood Avenue, and in the City of Torrance on Maple Street, and the City of Gardena on Artesia Boulevard. Lantz discussed the Maple Avenue project with a cost of \$2.15 million, which reduced congestion as a shortcut to the I-105 Freeway. The rehabilitation of the street included construction of medians with a turn lane in the middle permitting pedestrian and business accessibility. The City of El Segundo had an event with cars touring the industrial areas of the City. Lantz mentioned that more Measure R signs will be present throughout the South Bay as projects are continually underway. Suzanne Fuentes thanked the SBCCOG for the work conducted in the City of El Segundo. Bacharach mentioned that when cities identify projects, the SBCCOG will assist them in utilizing Measure R funds for earmarked projects. Bacharach discussed the LAX Connector project in the importance of this project to the South Bay. Bacharach stated that the SBCCOG does not have a position on how LAX should be connected, but it should not diminish the ability to enter into the airport or into West LA or other parts of the rail system. Bacharach further stated that some of the alternatives that LAX is coming up with would actually cause an increase in ridership time for those commuters who are trying to get to West LA. Most riders will use the rail to go to West LA not LAX. Timothy Lippman inquired regarding updates on LAX in the news and Bacharach stated Metro voted on processing the EIR on several different alternatives. Moreover, Bacharach mentioned that there were two alternatives proposing to go underground into the LAX terminal area, which is extremely expensive, with the airport against it and excluding it in the EIR, although a separate study will be conducted at the beginning of the EIR.

*ExpressLanes* - Bacharach discussed the ExpressLanes on the I-110 Freeway. Three letters were sent to Metro and Bacharach proposed sending another letter that was distributed in the packets entitled, "ExpressLanes Permanent Monthly Fee Waiver/ Uses of Surplus Revenues." The SBCCOG was successful in getting Metro to waive the maintenance fee temporarily. In February, Metro will vote to permanently waive the maintenance fee and the aforementioned letter supports the permanent waiver. Bacharach stated there are a lot of people who do not want to waive the maintenance fee permanently. However with the level of revenue generated by the ExpressLanes, there is no need to add additional cost to commuters for the transponder maintenance fee. The second issue in the letter is ensuring that funds from the ExpressLanes are used in the Corridor as originally promised by Metro. Bacharach further requested support from attendees in sending the letter to Metro before mid February.

*Sector Council* - Bacharach stated improvements to the Harbor Gateway Transit Center at the end of the 91 Freeway. Some of the improvements include new signage although the

Transit Center is still hard to locate. Bacharach mentioned improvements to the Harbor Gateway Transit Center at the end of the 91 Freeway. Some of the improvements include new signage, although the Transit Center is still hard to locate. The SBCCOG is working with Metro on securing additional signage to make the Transit Center more easily identifiable.

*Future transportation funding* - Metro is discussing a sales tax in 2016. The SBCCOG sent Metro a letter identifying projects eligible for funding using the sales tax revenue. Additionally, the letter emphasized community development specifically as it pertains to better and healthier neighborhoods to be included in the sales tax.

*South Bay Environmental Services Center* - Bacharach discussed the HERO program, a property assessed financing program for energy efficiency projects. Eleven of the South Bay cities will be starting the program in January 2014, and starting February 10, HERO will be at the South Bay Environmental Services Center. On February 5, HERO will have an informational luncheon event discussing more about the program.

*Reliability* - Regarding the reliability issue, Bacharach thanked Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi for securing meetings with PV, Ronald L. Litzinger of Southern California Edison, Jennifer Zivkovic from Senator Ted Lieu's Office and Assembly Member Steve Bradford. The SBCCOG learned that the South Bay is not receiving sufficient notification regarding power outages and issues of reliability. Bacharach discussed how the SBCCOG secured a pilot grant opportunity for a water energy nexus funded by Southern California Edison, one of the first in the state, for four municipal water systems in the South Bay, including Inglewood, Manhattan Beach, El Segundo, and Lomita to help with leak detection to save water and therefore, energy. Bacharach also mentioned the direct install program, in which Southern California Edison is offering cities up to \$15,000 worth of free equipment including new lights and window tinting.

*Climate Action, Prop. 39, PEV & General Assembly* - Bacharach mentioned that the SBCCOG received another grant for energy efficiency chapters of the climate action plan for all 15 cities, allowing for a South Bay energy efficient climate action plan. The SBCCOG is also working with schools on Proposition 39 to assist school districts with energy efficiency programs and stated the SBCCOG secured funding and can send out the engineer for those schools who need assistance using said funding. Bacharach shared that the SBCCOG promotes neighborhood-oriented development, since the South Bay doesn't have transit. Furthermore, Bacharach discussed the battery electric vehicle program and the three focus groups that show participants how to use electric vehicles and how the vehicles work. The plug-in electric vehicle program is completed and a final report will be posted on the website that will discuss the barriers facing municipalities, business and multi-family dwellings in implementing such energy infrastructure programs. Bacharach stated that the SBCCOG is applying for a Strategic Growth Council grant and requested support from the respective entities in attendance. The grant will focus on a comprehensive mobility plan for the South Bay to help with livable communities, reducing greenhouse gases and completing the climate action plan, which is also in alignment with the goals of the Strategic Growth Council. Lastly, Bacharach discussed the General Assembly and referenced the flyer handout for the event and requested that elected officials attend.

## State Offices

Ralph Franklin requested feedback on the Governor declaring a state of emergency regarding the drought and the impact on cities. Additionally, Franklin inquired regarding transportation methods, specifically the bullet train, the Crenshaw LAX light rail line, and infrastructure for electric vehicles.

*Senator Roderick Wright's Office* - Bill Orton from Sen. Wright's office distributed a booklet entitled, "35th State Senate District Legislative Highlights – Senator Roderick D. Wright." Orton stated that California is in its worst drought on record. The Governor, through executive order, has freed up some of red tape impacting the regulations for water, allowing the two largest purveyors of water in the world, California Water Project and the Federal Central Valley Water Project, greater leniency in the control of water. An example includes farmers whose unmetered water could potentially be confiscated by water officials. Eighty percent of water in the state goes for agricultural purposes, with less than 10 percent for people in cities, making conservation a critical issue. The Governor is moving forward with his proposal to run a few tunnels through the Delta to a conveyance system that would lead the water to Southern California. Regarding the bullet train, the Governor is looking for funding to put towards the train; however, in the House of Representatives, there is a proposal to deny federal funding for this project. The Governor has asked the State Supreme Court to weigh in, which will be a determiner on how fast construction can begin on the train that is set to begin this year. Orton congratulated the SBCCOG regarding its dealings with Metro in getting them to be responsive to the needs of the South Bay. Regarding the budget, Orton stated that the Governor will continue to push for a conservative approach, causing a central tension with legislators.

*Senator Ted Lieu's Office* - Jennifer Zivkovic from Senator Ted Lieu's office discussed three budget items the Senator has been pushing for that have been included in the budget, specifically \$6 billion for K-12 and \$1.1 billion for higher education. One of the Senator's major initiatives is pushing for a sector strategy approach for the economy to increase the state's competitiveness. Additionally, the Senator wrote a letter to the Governor requesting funding to fully update the earthquake fault mapping system, with an additional \$1.49 million being allocated in the budget proposal for this measure. Regarding the prisons, Sen. Lieu has called for rehabilitation programs, specifically \$81 million to be allocated accordingly. Moreover, the Senator has called for revisions to Medi-Cal part D due to the audit last year revealing high cases of fraud in the drug Medi-Cal program, with an additional \$2.2 million being earmarked to address this issue. Regarding legislation, the Senator introduced SB 511, which deals with promoting the ports as a competitive industry sector and bringing all the port stakeholders together to come up with a consensus strategy to promote California ports to keep them competitive, in light of the expansion of the Panama Canal and other ports in Mexico and Canada. Senator Lieu is also working with the County of Los Angeles to introduce a bill regarding child sex trafficking to increase the penalties for traffickers. Zivkovic stated that the Senator has a hearing coming up dealing with the Joint Committee on Arts on February 12 that examines the creative industries in California to incentivize these industries throughout the state. The Senator has also partnered with Jerome Horton from the Board of Equalization to host business seminars on February 18 at the Carson Community Center.

Senator Lieu is also doing a scam stopper for senior citizens in Manhattan Beach at the Joslin Center on February 20 at 10 am, which will include document shredder services.

Ralph Franklin mentioned issues with identity theft, the assessor programs with the redevelopment agencies and realignment. Bill Orton provided additional information regarding the Governor's tour of Monterey County and stated the Governor is receiving pushback on this issue.

*Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi's Office* - Timothy Lippman representing Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi's office, shared that the member is now chairing the Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance and seeks to ensure that schools are properly served in the budget proposal. The Member will be pushing for more investments in pre-K education due to the correlation of early investments on decreasing the prison population. Lippman shared the Member's legislative priorities, specifically AB 777, which would address taxing property for private space exploration industries in order to keep these jobs in California. Lippman discussed AB 66 dealing with electrical reliability, which was chaptered and signed into law by the Governor, in addition to the continued conversations between the PUC (Public Utility Commission) and the SBCCOG, which has led to Southern California Edison contributing \$20 million to invest in infrastructure in the South Bay to improve electrical reliability. Regarding events, the Member is hosting a senior scam stopper event, in partnership with the City of Torrance, Friday January 31. On February 4, there will be a Cash for College Workshop at Narbonne High School; February 22 there will be a tax assistance program at the Boys and Girls Club in the South Bay; March 1 the mobile district office will be held at the Farmers' Market to conduct a meet and greet with constituents. Lippman shared how the Member introduced ACR 85, which memorializes the Japanese Internment, and stated that there will be an event held on March 1 at the Japanese-American Cultural Center in Gardena. Lastly, on March 21, the Member, in coordination with the Governor and GoBiz, will conduct a small business workshop in the City of Torrance.

*Assembly Member Bonnie Lowenthal's Office* - Marisol Barajas, representing the Office of Assembly Member Bonnie Lowenthal, shared that the Member is focusing on authoring legislation on mental health, women in the military and domestic violence. Barajas also provided information on the member's upcoming events including the Cash for College program with the Boys and Girls Club, which will be held at Long Beach City College and Cal State Long Beach. Barajas also stated that the Member will be conducting tax workshops over the next few months throughout the South Bay. Ralph Franklin inquired if the tax preparation services were free of charge and Barajas stated the services are free, since the Board of Equalization provides these services.

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

Olivia Valentine from the City of Hawthorne requested information regarding the infrastructure financing districts and whether the Governor would be putting forth a bill regarding this matter. Jeff Kiernan from the League of California Cities stated that there was information on economic development, specifically the local infrastructure financing districts in the Governor's proposed budget, which would lower the voter threshold to 50 percent tax

increment financing. Kiernan further shared that the Governor plans on expanding the existing infrastructure financing district to include water projects, transportation and affordable housing. Bill Orton stated the May Revise of the budget may incorporate the infrastructure financing districts depending on the level of support.

Ralph Franklin mentioned the issue of the departure of local jobs specifically, the movie industry jobs and the potential relocation of such jobs to Canada and how Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti is considering business tax reductions in order to incentivize business retention in the state. Franklin encouraged attendees at the meeting to share with legislators their support of creating incentives for businesses to remain in the state.

Jeff Kiernan from the League of California Cities discussed legislation around massage parlors, referenced in the handout distributed at the meeting entitled, "Massage Issues: Implementation of SB 731." Kiernan further discussed the proliferation of massage parlors throughout the South Bay and how some of these establishments engage in prostitution, sex trafficking and the victimization of the massage workers. AB 1147 (Gomez) passed the Assembly and Kiernan welcomed cities to lend their support as the bill passes on to the Senate Standing Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development chaired by Senator Lieu.

Eleanor Jones from the City of Torrance reiterated the concern regarding the increased establishment of massage parlors and shared how the City of Torrance established a committee in 2010 to deal with this issue, comprised of various South Bay cities, along with the police, community development, city manager and the city attorneys' departments. Jones further stated that the city is looking at re-establishing the committee since a collaborative approach is more effective, as this issue impacts the entire South Bay. Mark Waronek from the City of Lomita also shared that said city has 26 massage parlors and the urgency of addressing this issue. Waronek shared that the city had a meeting with Assembly Member Muratsuchi to discuss the magnitude of the increase in massage parlors and encouraged cities to reach out to Senator Ted Lieu. Chris Brown from the City of Hawthorne and Susan Fuentes from the City of El Segundo stated that their respective cities do not have any massage parlors. Michael Goodson from the City of Hawthorne shared an ordinance developed by the City of Hawthorne to prevent such businesses from emerging in the City and offered to share information regarding the ordinance with other cities.

Ralph Franklin inquired about marijuana dispensaries and shared that the City of Inglewood has issues with these dispensaries being used for other purposes. Jeff Kiernan shared that the League of California Cities is working with the police chiefs and legislators to create the framework for challenging how these dispensaries are used and giving local government regulatory agency. Steve Napolitano from LA County shared that cities can ban marijuana dispensaries. Kiernan also shared that e-cigarettes and storm water compliance as pressing concerns for the League.

## **Federal Offices**

*Senator Dianne Feinstein's Office* - Michael Davies from Senator Dianne Feinstein's office discussed the importance of securing a budget and rolling back some of the sequestration cuts. Additionally, Davies stated the Senator's work around reducing helicopter noise, in collaboration with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), using a voluntary approach. Davies stated this is his last week and that Molly O'Brien will be the representative for the Senator. Molly O'Brien introduced herself and welcomed working with the SBCCOG. Ralph Franklin welcomed O'Brien to the SBCCOG.

*Senator Barbara Boxer's Office* - Maurice Lyles, from Senator Barbara Boxer's office, shared that the Senator is focused on developing a comprehensive school safety initiative, which will provide \$75 million through the Department of Justice, in the wake of the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting; \$50 million will be used for training school personnel and safety inspections for the schools with the remainder \$25 million being used for research into preventing school shootings. Other issues the Senator is focused on include sexual assault in the military, extending the unemployment benefits and the Water Resources Development Act that is in the Senate committee, specifically the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund that provides infrastructure funding to the ports. Regarding MAP 21, Lyles shared that the Senator hopes it is passed this year, especially considering the need for improving transportation infrastructure.

*Congressman Henry Waxman's Office* - Erica Braxton-White from Congressman Henry Waxman's office shared the Congressman's disappointment with cuts in defense funding. The Congressman is pushing for the Water Resources Development Act, which would fund water treatment, recycling and infrastructure and promote environmental protection. Additionally, the Congressman is focused on the Bipartisan Framework for Comprehensive Immigration Reform and the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, specifically as it pertains to citizens' complaints regarding increases in premiums for those with pre-existing health conditions. White discussed the Congressman's discussion on the extension of unemployment benefits and the fast-track train bill. Ralph Franklin inquired about the Affordable Care Act in the President's speech and the potential terrorist threats surrounding the Olympics. Molly O'Brien stated that Senator Feinstein is hosting a hearing on the Worldwide Threat Assessment and would get information to Jacki Bacharach regarding this matter.

## **Public Comment**

Charles Gale from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, shared information about the Bay Delta Conservation Plan that was released November 2013 and the public hearings conducted throughout the state. Gale mentioned that the public comments will be closing on April 14 and that public comments for Southern California will take place on February 4 at the LA Convention Center.

Bill Orton asked when the FAA is going to receive public comment regarding the issue of helicopter noise. Michael Davies stated he would have to get back to Orton. Michael Rock

from the City of Lomita mentioned the need for action regarding street repair and the need to approve MAP 21 and allocating funds for such purposes.

### **Recap**

Jacki Bacharach stated the great attendance at the meeting and thanked the offices for coming to the meeting. Bacharach welcomed recommendations on what attendees want to accomplish at the meeting in an effort to accommodate such requests in the agenda. Patricia Donaldson shared that Mayor Chris Brown would be speaking at the State of the City and welcomed attendance.

Being no further business, Ralph Franklin thanked attendees and adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Natalie Champion  
South Bay Cities Council of Governments