

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Briefing & Breakfast with Legislative District Staff Meeting Notes

Thursday, January 11, 2018
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Theatre
Torrance, California 90501

SBCCOG Chair & Torrance Mayor Pro Tem Kurt Weideman called the meeting to order at 8:18 am and proceeded with the flag salute. The following individuals introduced themselves:

Elected Officials and Board Members

Cedrick Hicks, Carson
Olivia Valentine, Hawthorne
Kurt Weideman, Torrance
Britt Huff, Rolling Hills Estates
Heide Ashcraft, Torrance
Nancy Hersman, Manhattan Beach
Kenneth Kao, Palos Verdes Estates
James Vandever, Palos Verdes Estates
Jennifer King, Palos Verdes Estates

Representatives of Legislators

Jeanette Cheng, US Senator Feinstein
Cameron Onumah, US Senator Feinstein
Gabriela Medina, Congressperson
Barragan
Morgan Roth, Congressperson
Barragan
Aurelia Friedman, Congressman Lieu
Sonia Lopez, State Senator Mitchell
Olina Wibroe, State Senator Allen
Robert Pullen-Miles, Assemblymember
Burke
Christopher Wilson, Assemblymember
Gipson
Sarah Patterson, Assemblymember
O' Donnell
Andrew DeBlock, Assemblymember
Muratsuchi

City/County Staff

Alexa Davis, Rolling Hills Estates
Eleanor Jones, Torrance
Lisa Berglund, Carson
Matt Johnson, LA County, SD4

Other Agencies

David Gamboa, CSUDH
Patricia Donaldson, Hawthorne Chamber
Javiera Cartagena, SCAG
Jeff Kiernan, League of CA Cities
George Chen, Torrance Council Candidate
Sharon Green LA County Sanitation District
Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG
Natalie Champion, SBCCOG
Rosemary Lackow, SBCCOG
David Leger, SBCCOG
Steve Lantz, SBCCOG

Program Update

SBCCOG Executive Director Jacki Bacharach provided an update highlighting Los Angeles County's funding of Councils of Governments for homeless resources. Specifically, LA County Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas and Janice Hahn's offices provide funding for the SBCCOG Homeless program, which includes

services for conducting community outreach and identifying housing for those in need. Supervisor Hahn's office will continue the funding for the aforementioned SBCCOG services, however the SBCCOG requests letters of support to receive continued funding through Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas' office. The SBCCOG is also coordinating city activities for planning grants around homeless services and first responder trainings. On February 14, the SBCCOG will be co-hosting, with Supervisor Hahn's office, a bus tour of successful, permanent, affordable supportive housing sites and Ms. Bacharach extended the invitation to elected officials and the legislative offices. Additionally, the SBCCOG met with the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) and intends on collaborating with the SBWIB in providing homeless services. The SBWIB has a designated staff person who works specifically with individuals who are in danger of becoming homeless.

In transportation, the SBCCOG is monitoring the Green Line Extension and participating in the development of the Measure M guidelines to verify if the SBCCOG is eligible for funding and to ascertain how Metro will disperse said funding. Ms. Bacharach requested that cities send in the types of projects they would like to complete under Measure M. Regarding the Metro ExpressLanes, Ms. Bacharach shared that excess revenue is supposed to go back to the corridor from which it is collected. However, Metro is discussing using the excess revenue to build additional ExpressLanes throughout LA County. Specifically, Metro is considering borrowing funds from the I-110 corridor, yet there is no certainty on when such funds will be returned. Ms. Bacharach requests that the legislative offices monitor possible legislation from Metro to change whether funds are returned to the local corridor, which could potentially take funding away from the South Bay. LA County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas' office is funding the SBCCOG Broadband Feasibility study and the SBCCOG is working with the SBWIB for an RFP by June that will provide information on whether a regional broadband network will give the cities in the South Bay a network at a lower cost with more service. The SBCCOG completed all of the cities climate action plans (CAP) through a Strategic Growth Council grant as well as a South Bay CAP. Strategies in the plans were traditional as well as including the Sustainable South Bay Strategy. Ms. Bacharach discussed the slow speed network study funded by Metro for the South Bay and thanked the legislative offices for sending letters of support to Caltrans for advancing the work with a feasibility study even though the SBCCOG did not receive the grant. The SBCCOG is planning on going to Sacramento to meet with the Strategic Growth Council about lessons learned from climate action planning and to meet with the California Air Resources Board about a special South Bay vehicle incentive program for slow speed vehicles. Ms. Bacharach mentioned the SBCCOG General Assembly entitled, "The Evolution of Retail" and how this would impact homelessness, employment opportunities, and everything we do.

The SBCCOG Program update PowerPoint presentation is on the SBCCOG website at: <http://www.southbaycities.org/committees/legislative-district-staff-briefing/legislative-district-staff-briefing-15>

Chair Weideman directed the legislative offices to the questions provided by Councilman Ralph Franklin of Inglewood. The questions provided are as follows:

Questions: State Government

- 1. With the new gas tax increase of 12 cents, when will state projects for infrastructure get started and potential locations up and down the state?*
- 2. Cannabis for recreational purposes can now be used/sold/stored in various cities throughout the state, what measures do you have in place to monitor and keep them in compliance?*
- 3. With the use of cannabis, what educational programs, rehab facilities and law enforcement do you have in place, particularly driving under the influence?*
- 4. Is the Bullet Train a myth or reality with the Governor's term is nearly up? We need those funds set aside for this project to go back into many vital programs for the good and welfare of the Californians.*

Questions: Federal Government

- 1. Currently there is a strong issue that the Federal Budget has not been approved, any idea how much longer before the government will start closing offices and/or laying off employees and what departments?*
- 2. In the news we are constantly hearing about sexual harassment by government officials, including the President, is ethic training and/or sexual harassment education in the mix for the elected in the near future? Also, what kind of discipline can be imposed on Federal Officials for being in violation? And will they be enforced?*

Federal Offices

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein's representative Cameron Onumah emphasized that the federal government runs out of money effective January 19 and cited the continuing resolution passed before the holidays funding the government through January 19. The Senator voted against the continuing resolution last month for two reasons: because there are no provisions to extend CHIP funding, which would result in states having to pick up funding, including California having to pay out \$300-\$500 million to continue the mandated program regardless of whether the federal government provides the monies. She also voted against the continuing resolution because there is no provision for immigrants. Mr. Onumah stated that the United States government has been conducting a review on harassment policies and that they have gone through some re-training. In terms of marijuana, the Senator has a bill to expand research on cannabinoid oil to review the health benefits to cancer patients and other kinds of health issues and remove this from the Schedule One Offences through the Department of Justice. From a public safety perspective, the Senator wants to make sure that CHP and local governments have the tools they need to train and implement DRO's, also known as drug recognition officers. Mr. Onumah discussed homemade butane honey oil and how there have been cases throughout the state of home fires and the need for cities to zone appropriately to ensure such activities are not permissible in apartments and homes. Hawthorne Councilperson Olivia Valentine asked what does the officer look for when people are under the influence of marijuana with Mr. Onumah stating the officers will do a pupil test to determine if a person is under the influence.

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein's representative Jeanette Cheng discussed how the President is opening up offshore drilling in the coastal communities. The Senator has released statements, including to all the County supervisors throughout the state, urging them to pass a resolution to ban offshore drilling.

Congressman Ted Lieu's representative Aurelia Friedman distributed a flyer on My Service Academy Day to be held on Saturday, February 10 from 1 pm to 4 pm at the Los Angeles Air Force Base. She shared that the Congressman is against the GOP tax bill, since it will raise taxes on 92 million middle-class families by 2027 to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy and corporations. Ms. Friedman shared that the Congressman is also against offshore drilling and that he recently did an article in Time Magazine about the danger of President Trump making threats against North Korea. Lastly, Ms. Friedman discussed HR 4076 which will create a new body called the Music Licensing Collective.

Gabriela Medina representing Congresswoman Nanette Diaz Barragán's office shared that the district has the third-largest recipients of DACA in California. The Congresswoman supports the DREAM Act and wrote a non-partisan letter to support the port security grant program. Regarding marijuana, there was discussion around the need for more officer training and the lack of efficacy in blood testing for marijuana.

State Offices

State Senator Benjamin Allen's representative Olina Wibroe mentioned SB 227 and SB 189 and the aerospace committee hearing on February 9 which will have a focus on workforce development. Ms. Wibroe highlighted that the state of California is in charge of licensing for marijuana, but not the actual sale and emphasized that it is not legal to be under the influence of marijuana in the workplace.

State Senator Holly Mitchell's representative Sonia Lopez discussed how starting October 2020 all California driver's licenses are required to be compliant with the new federal law in order to fly domestic flights. She also shared that the Senator will be the Budget Chair for the Senate.

Robert Pullen-Miles representing Assemblymember Autumn Burke shared that the Assemblymember was named chair of the Revenue and Tax Committee and will be working on extending a tax credit for the entertainment industry. Mr. Pullen-Miles discussed AB 1520 and how the child poverty bill passed last year requiring the formation of a task force that will address how services are provided in order to get children and families out of poverty. The Assemblymember is also the Chair of the Career and Technical Education Committee and will be hosting hearings throughout the district to address topics such as workforce development as well as hear from industry regarding the types of jobs that will be needed in the future. Mr. Pullen-Miles stated that the Real ID Act, although federal in nature, has state implications and shared that constituents can reach out to his office if they have any questions.

Andrew DeBlock of Assembly AI Muratsuchi's Office discussed the Governor's rainy day fund and how he plans on fully funding the local control funding formula. The Assemblymember is fighting against offshore drilling as well and the rise of package theft. Mr. DeBlock discussed the Assemblymember's focus on aerospace and career technical education and that he plans to establish an Aerospace Institute in his district. Lastly, Mr. DeBlock mentioned that the Assemblymember is attempting to make surfing the state sport for California.

Sarah Patterson representing Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell discussed SB 1 and how that Assemblymember sits on the Transportation Committee and chairs the Goods Movement Subcommittee. Ms. Patterson shared that SB 1 has its own website, which details proposed projects and how and when money is going to local municipalities to implement projects – the website is www.rebuildingca.ca.gov. In terms of the Assemblymember's legislative bill package, career technical education is a priority including AB 1743 which will allocate more funding to CTE training. Ms. Bacharach commented that the SBCCOG I-110/405 Freeway improvement project is funded under SB 1.

City/Agency Comments

Matt Johnson of Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn's office discussed how marijuana is banned in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and that the Board of Supervisors is currently working on regulations for the use of marijuana in such areas. The Supervisors are also reviewing the Green Line Extension and want the project fast tracked. Mr. Johnson stated that Metro wants to borrow money from the I-110 to build the fast track ExpressLanes for the I-105 freeway. He also shared that the homeless count will take place on Jan. 24.

Jeff Kiernan from the League of California Cities discussed how the League's policy on offshore oil drilling is old and that there are six new leases proposed for California and the action the League is looking to support; he mentioned AB 1775 and SB 834 would ban any new offshore oil rigs within 3 miles of the coastline. Mr. Kiernan discussed community choice aggregation and encouraged cities to oppose the proposed ruling of the CPUC on this issue. Mr. Kiernan shared that the League is also reviewing pension reform and that there is a Center for Medical Cannabis research in California at the University of San Diego. He mentioned that there will be an Assembly constitutional amendment on the ballot in June, which will protect SB 1 funds from the Legislature. The League is also making sure that cities have the resources and educational materials to address sexual harassment. Lastly, Mr. Kiernan distributed a guide to housing legislation and how cities can deal with land-use and shared the date for the League's Meet and Greet that will take place on February 26. Ms. Bacharach shared that the SBCCOG did send a letter on the PUC issue as it is an attack on local options and control.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Chair Weideman adjourned the meeting at 9:34 am until Thursday, April 12, 2018.

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